



GASP! CHOKE!! IT'S BACK!!



\$3.95
\$4.95 CAN

NO. 1
ALL-NEW!

R.I.P.
TALES
FROM THE
CRYPT
1950-1955

WHAT,
ME
DEAD?

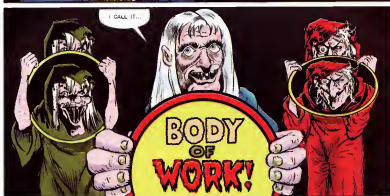
Kyle Baker

55 95US \$4-95CAN

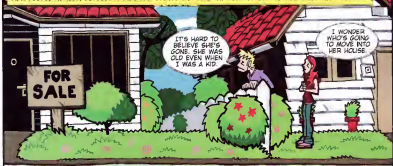
01



FIRST PAPER CUT  ISSUE!



NOTHING MUCH HAPPENS IN THE TOWN OF CRANWELL, NEW JERSEY, THAT'S WHY, WHEN ELDERLY GLADYS PRICE DIED, PEOPLE NOTICED, ESPECIALLY MIKE AND LINDA ANDERSON, THE MARRIED COUPLE WHO LIVED NEXT DOOR.

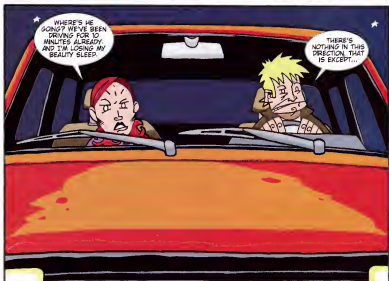


DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, ALL THE CUSTOMERS AT THE LOCAL DINER WHERE MIKE WORKED AS A COOK, AND LINDA, AS A WAITRESS, HAD IDEAS...



A FEW WEEKS LATER THE HOUSE WAS SOLD. A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER...







ON THEIR WAY BACK HOME...

WELL, NOW
WE KNOW WHERE
HE GOES AT NIGHT
AND WHAT
HE'S DOING.

HE'S ONE
SICK PUPPY.

A FEW DAYS LATER....

CHECK OUT THESE
PHOTOS. BOB AT THE
DRUGSTORE GAVE THEM
TO ME. THEY'RE COPIES OF
THE ONES THAT KROLL
DROPPED OFF TO BE
DEVELOPED.



THESE MUST BE
SOME OF HIS PAINTINGS!
LOOK AT ALL THOSE CORPSES!
YOU DON'T THINK HE
ACTUALLY DIGGS THEM
UP, DO YOU?

IF HE HAD
MARTY AT THE
POLICE STATION
WOULD'VE SAID
SOMETHING AT OUR
WEEKLY POKER
GAME.

A MAAT



I GUESS
IT TAKES
ALL KINDS.

MAYBE KROLL
GOES TO THE
CEMETERY FOR
INSPIRATION.



AFTER THAT, THINGS WERE QUIET FOR A WHILE. OR AT LEAST
AS QUIET AS IT GETS IN ANY SMALL TOWN.

YOU RUINED
THESE
PANCAKES

IT'S A NEW
RECIPE I'M
TRYING.

WHAT'S IT
CALLED? "HOW TO
LOSE CUSTOMERS
AND GET US
FIRED"?



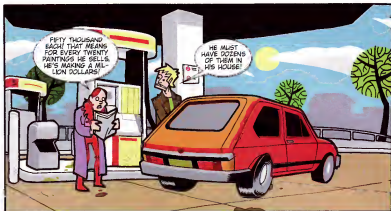
THEN ONE DAY, SOME-
THING HAPPENED THAT
CHANGED EVERYTHING...

TAKE A LOOK
AT THIS ARTICLE
IN THE CRANWELL
WEEKLY.

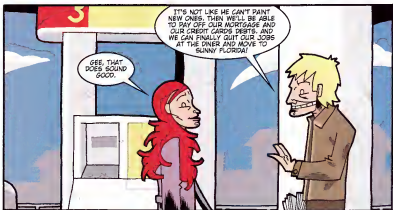
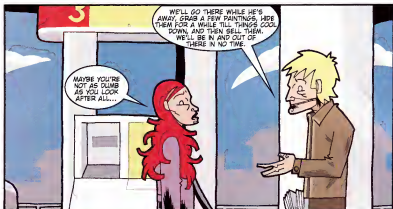
READ IT.

I HOPE IT'S
NOT ANOTHER
RECIPE.
HEY, IT'S ABOUT OUR
NEIGHBOR, JACK
KROLL.









A WEEK
WENT BY
AND THEN
THE DAY
CAME...

KROLL'S GETTING
INTO HIS CAR. IN A
FEW MINUTES THAT
CREEP WILL BE
ON HIS WAY TO
NEW YORK.

IT TAKES AT
LEAST AN HOUR AND A
HALF TO GET TO THE CITY,
PLUS WITH THE TRAFFIC AT
THIS HOUR, YOU CAN ADD
AT LEAST ANOTHER
HALF HOUR.

ACCORDING TO THE
ART GALLERY, THE OPENING
PARTY SHOULD GO ON PAST
MIDNIGHT. SO WE'RE LOOKING
AT FOUR OR FIVE HOURS
AT LEAST.

LET'S WAIT A
COUPLE OF HOURS,
THEN WE'LL MAKE
OUR MOVE.

I'M
SCARED.

THAT'S ASSUMING
THAT HE DOESN'T
STAY AT A HOTEL IN
NEW YORK FOR THE
NIGHT. BUT WE CAN'T
COUNT ON THAT.

THINK
ABOUT
FLORIDA.

TWO HOURS LATER.

WE'RE IN HIS
BACKYARD!
WE'RE HALFWAY
THERE.

HEY, KEEP
YOUR SHIRT ON,
TOM CRUISE--THIS
ISN'T MISSION
IMPOSSIBLE!

NOW REMEMBER,
YOU'RE STANDING
WATCH OUTSIDE.
CALL ME ON YOUR CELL IF
THERE ARE ANY SIGNS
OF TROUBLE.

OKAY.

MIKE PRIE'S OPEN A WINDOW AND LOWERS
HIMSELF INTO HIS NEIGHBOR'S BASEMENT.

LOOK AT ALL
THIS JUNK. IT LOOKS
LIKE A RUMMAGE
SALE AT STEPHEN
KING'S HOUSE.

IN ANOTHER ROOM...

PAY DIRT! IT'S A TREASURE TROVE! THERE'S ENOUGH HERE TO PAY FOR OUR RETIREMENT A HUNDRED TIMES OVER!

MIKE EAGERLY GRABS AS MANY PAINTINGS AS HE CAN CARRY AND RETURNS TO HIS HOUSE...

LOOK AT THEM! THEY'RE THE LIGHTEST THINGS YOU'VE EVER SEEN AND WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. WE DID IT!

NOT YET! I'M GOING BACK AND MAKING ANOTHER RUN!

BUT WE'VE GOT PLENTY HERE!

I'LL JUST GET A FEW MORE. I'M TELLING YOU HE HAS A WHOLE BASEMENT FULL OF THEM!



BACK AT KROLL'S HOUSE...







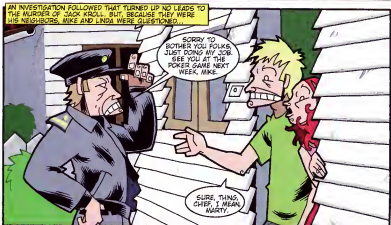
AFTER GETTING BACK TO HIS HOUSE, MIKE TOLD LINDA WHAT HAPPENED. THEN HE SHOWERED, CHANGED CLOTHES, AND TOGETHER, THEY GOT INTO THEIR CAR AND DROVE TO THEIR STORAGE UNIT OUTSIDE OF THE NEXT TOWN...



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE OWNER OF THE NEW YORK ART GALLERY CALLED THE CRANWELL POLICE TO REPORT THAT THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REACH KROLL. THE POLICE CHECKED KROLL'S HOUSE AND FOUND HIS BODY...



AN INVESTIGATION FOLLOWED THAT TURNED UP NO LEADS TO THE MURDER OF JACK KROLL. BUT, BECAUSE THEY WERE HIS NEIGHBORS, MIKE AND LINDA WERE QUESTIONED...



A YEAR WENT BY, AND LIFE WENT ON IN THE TOWN OF CRANWELL, AND PEOPLE FORGOT ABOUT THE ARTIST WHO WAS MURDERED, BUT THERE WERE TWO PEOPLE WHO DID NOT FORGET...

NOW'S THE TIME TO SELL! I'VE GOT ART DEALERS IN THREE STATES THAT HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BUYING HIS PICTURES.

ACCORDING TO THIS WEBSITE, NOW THAT KROLL'S BEEN DEAD FOR A YEAR, THE VALUE OF HIS PAINTINGS HAVE GONE UP A LOT.

THAT NIGHT, MIKE AND LINDA DROVE TO THEIR STORAGE UNIT TO RETRIEVE SOME OF JACK KROLL'S PAINTINGS...

LUCKILY, THIS STORAGE FACILITY HAS TWENTY-FOUR HOUR ACCESS.

I DON'T LIKE COMING HERE AT NIGHT. IT'S SPOOKY. WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

PROBABLY SOMEONE GOING TO THEIR OWN STORAGE SPACE.

WHAT'S THAT HORRIBLE SMELL?

WHO CARES? JUST HELP ME LOAD THESE PAINTINGS INTO THE TRUNK.

BUT BEFORE MIKE AND LINDA COULD TAKE ANY MORE OF THE PAINTINGS OUT, THEY HEARD THE SOUND OF SOMETHING SCRAPING AGAINST THE ASPHALT ON THE GROUND, AND THEN THAT TERRIBLE SMELL SUDDENLY GOT MUCH, MUCH WORSE...

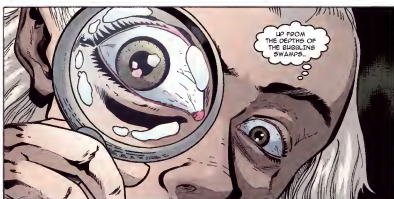
AND THE OTHERS... THAT BLUE DRESS... THE STRIPED SHIRT... THEY'RE KROLL'S MODELS!!

OH, MY LORD! ZCHOKEC CORPSES! JUST LIKE THE ONES IN KROLL'S PAINTINGS! ONLY THESE ARE REAL! AND THAT ONE IS DRESSED IN KROLL'S CLOTHES!

MR. EXES

THE NEXT DAY THE POLICE FOUND MIKE AND LINDA DEAD. THEY'D BOTH HAD HEART ATTACKS. THE ODDS OF THAT HAPPENING, ACCORDING TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINER, WERE ASTRONOMICAL. THE PAINTINGS WERE RECOVERED, AND SENT TO JACK KROLL'S ONLY LIVING RELATIVE; AN OLD AUNT, WHOM, FOR SOME REASON, THOUGHT THEY WERE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS SHE'D EVER SEEN.





TOMMY!

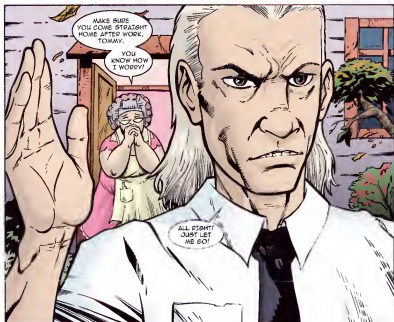
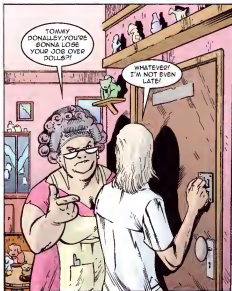
ARE YOU STILL
PLAYING WITH
THOSE HORRIBLE
DOLLS?

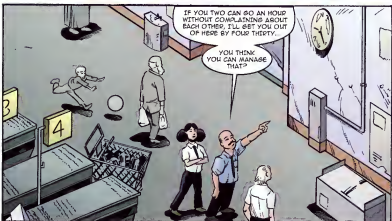
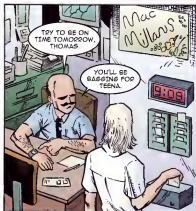
YOU'RE
GONNA BE LATE
FOR WORK!

THEY AREN'T
DOLLS, MOM!

THEY'RE FULLY-
POSSIBLE MICRO-
ARTICULATED ACTION
FIGURES!

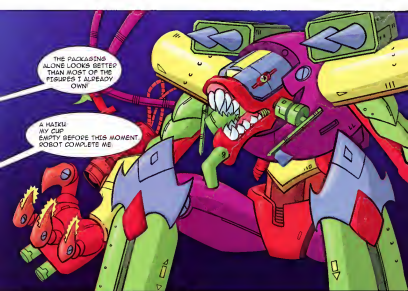
AND I WASN'T
EVEN LOOKING
AT 'EM!











UH, NO.

PROBABLY BETTER
IF WE DON'T HANDLE IT.
SERIOUS COLLECTORS WILLING
TO DROP A HUNDRED BUCKS ON
A PIECE LIKE THIS ARE PICKY
ABOUT CONDITION



I CAN FIND A
DOZEN OF THESE
ONLINE FOR
HALF THAT!

BE MY GUEST

I'LL BE PRICING
UP YO-SI-MON CARDS
IF YOU NEED ANY
MORE HELP



BUT LATER THAT
NIGHT...

I CAN'T EVEN
FIND A PICTURE
OF IT!

WHY DIDN'T
I ASK HIM WHAT
THE STUPID THING
WAS CALLED?



TOMMY! I THOUGHT I TOLD
YOU TO GO TO BED!

I WON'T
SLEEP
A WINK
IF I HAVE
TO WORRY
ABOUT WHAT
YOU ARE UP
TO DOWN
HERE!







ARE YOU HOME FROM WORK, TOMMY?

YEAH, MOM!



THE HOURS SEEM TO FLY BY AS THOMAS EXAMINES HIS ILL-GOTTEN GAIN UNTIL...

DUHH! I'M TOO TIRED TO KEEP MY EYES FOCUSED ANY LONGER



JUST ONE MORE DAY OF WORK TO GET THROUGH AND THEN I'LL HAVE THE WEEKEND TO LOOK AT IT AS MUCH AS I LIKE

NO NEED TO BE GOSSEY. I'VE GOT MY WHOLE LIFE LEFT TO ENJOY IT

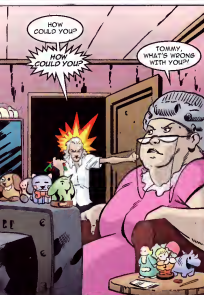


EVEN IF THE
DRAGON'S HOARD WILL GIVE
ME HALF OF WHAT I PAID FOR
THAT IMPORT FIGURE, I STILL
WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO PAY
MACMILLANS BACK BY
TOMORROW!

WAYRE
THEY'LL BUY
SOME OF
MY OTH-

EEH!

NOOOOOOOOOO!





KRASSSHH



HEY, WHAT'S THAT?!











Translation:
"SUPER EVIL DEMON ROBOT!
"COMES TO LIFE!
"WRECKS YOUR HOME!
"NOW 250% MORE CURSED!"



FOR SERIOUS
COLLECTORS ONLY

250%呪いレベルUP!

THE END

HAI HAI HAI! TOMMY GOT MORE ACTION FROM HIS FULLY-POSEABLE, MICRO-ARTICULATED FIGURES THAN HE BARBAINED FOR!

KLIK
KLIK

SEE, KIDDEES—
ALWAYS BE SURE
TO READ THE LABEL!
OR DO YOU JUST
THINK THAT'S JUST
A CROC-O-ZOID?

SERIOUS COLLECTORS ARE NOT
TO BE TRIFLED WITH! THAT'S WHY
WHEN I LIST MY MORTHESS JUNK
ON EEBDAY...

...I MAKE SURE TO ACCURATELY DEGRADE! AFTER
ALL, IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU LEARN IN A CRYPT,
IT'S HOW TO GET YOUR COLLECTIBLES SLASSED! AND I
CERTAINLY MADE SURE TO PACK EVERYTHING SECURELY!
I FIND THAT PINE BOXES WORK BEST FOR ME—
ALTHOUGH THE SHRED-EX GUY DOESN'T
SEEM TO APPRECIATE IT!

THUMP
KNOK
KNOK

THUMP
KNOK
KNOK

SO, LET'S NOT WAIT
A HALF CENTURY UNTIL WE
MEET AGAIN! BE BACK IN JUST
SIXTY DAYS FOR MORE TALES
FROM THE CRYPT!

The Return of **TALES FROM THE CRYPT**



It's one of the biggest surprises in the world of comics and graphic novel publishing! Shortly before the 2007 New York Comic Con, Papercutz announced that we would be publishing all-new **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** comics. After more than 50 years, EC Comics' legendary flagship title returns with all-new shocking SuspendStories, narrated by the original Crypt-Keeper, Old Witch, and Vault Keeper. Each issue will feature two 20-page tales of terror in the EC tradition!

Reactions ranged from excitement—from fans thrilled to see the most famous horror comicbook ever return after over fifty years, to shock—that it was to be coming from a publisher primarily known for its graphic novels such as *Nancy Drew* and *The Hardy Boys* which contain material suitable for all-ages, as the **HBO TALES FROM THE CRYPT** series certainly contained a fair amount of adult content.

"People forget that the original **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** comicbook, published by the EC Comics back in the 50s, was also intended for all-ages, and its primary readership was young boys," Papercutz Editor-in-Chief Jim Salicrup is quick to point out. But that may be exactly what fans find so controversial. The original **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** comics, featuring stories dreamed up by EC publisher William M. Gaines and his editor Al Feldstein, and drawn by Feldstein, as well as Graham Ingles, Jack Davis, Jack Kamen, Joe Orlando, Wally Wood, Harvey Kurtzman, Bill Elder, Reed Crandall, Johnny Craig, Al Williamson, George Evans, and colored by Marie Severin, started a horror comics craze that soon drew the attention of psychiatrist Dr. Frederick Wertham.

Wertham reacted to horror comics' popularity with children by writing a book called "Seduction of the Innocent," which maintained that comics led to juvenile delinquency and even worse behavior. Parents were understandably alarmed, and soon the Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency was taking a hard look at comicbooks. EC Comics publisher Bill Gaines spoke before the Subcommittee, but was unable to convince them that his comics were entertaining stories told in good taste. Ultimately, comicbook publishers adversely affected by the negative publicity created the Comics Magazine Association of America which would review comics and award a seal of approval to assure parents that the comic's contents were safe, wholesome entertainment.

Unfortunately, it was too late for many publishers, as the negative publicity had so hurt sales of comics that many comicbook companies went out of business. EC Comics, tried to hang in there, but despite canceling their horror comics, and creating new titles such as "Valor" and "Psychoanalysis," only *MAD* comics, in a new magazine format, survived.

The question is, was **TALES FROM CRYPT** really all that bad? "Of course not!" Salicrup insists. "Ironically, many of the original stories would be approved by today's revised Comics Code, but sure, there were some stories that still wouldn't get by. The point here is that the stories that Papercutz will be creating will be aimed at readers age 10 and up. Instead of excessive blood and gore, we'll be sticking to the **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** tradition of stories filled with interesting characters, lots of dark humor, and of course, the trademarked EC "shock" endings!"

But ultimately it's you who will decide if we succeeded or failed. Send your comments to us at salicrup@papercutz.com or to **THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S CORNER, PAPERUTZ, 40 Exchange Place, Ste. 1308, New York, NY 10005**. We'll run the most interesting comments in our next issue, which is coming your way in just 60 days.

When reached for comment, The Crypt-Keeper said, "It's good to be back, boils and ghouls—and it's about time! Ahahahah!"

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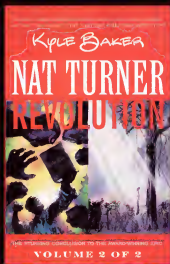
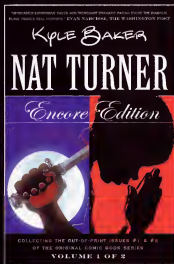
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EVERYBODY!**

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TO USE
THIS TAG
IN YOUR
OWN EGO
FREE SCANS

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Digital Comics Preservation

PAPER CUT Z

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE SORDID
SECOND ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN,
REED CRANDALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE
EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, HARVEY KURTZMAN, JOE
ORLANDO, MARIE SEVERIN, AL WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"THE TENANT"

NEIL KLEID

WRITER

STEVE MANNION

ARTIST

MARK LERER

LETTERER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

"THE GARDEN"

FRED VAN LENTE

WRITER

MR. EXES

ARTIST

MARK LERER

LETTERER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SALICRUP

WRITER

RICK PARKER

ARTIST/TITLE LETTERER

MARK LERER

LETTERER

STEVE MANNION

COVER ARTIST

CARICATURES DRAWN BY STEVE BROOKER
AT THE 2005 MOCCA ART FEST.

TERRY NANTIER



THE PUBLISHER

JIM SALICRUP



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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TERROR



PAPERBACK
NO. 2
ALL-NEW!

TALES



\$3.95
\$4.95 CAN

FROM THE

CRYPT

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



THE CRYPT OF TERROR

WELCOME TO MY "OPEN CRYPT!"
BOILS AND GHOULS! SINCE SHIPPING
OUT THE OLD WITCH AND THE VAULT-
KEEPER I'VE BEEN LOOKING TO RENT
OUT MY TOMBS-WITH-A-VIEW!

MY ONLINE POST ON CRAZED'S LIST HAS
GOTTEN TERRIFIC RESULTS! JUST LOOK AT
ALL THESE APPLICANTS DYING TO RENT
SPACE IN MY COZY CRYPT!
REMINDS ME OF A
TALE I CALL...

The
TENANT



NUMBER 613 1869 AVENUE HAS BEEN BETTER DAYS.

THROUGH GRIMY WINDOWS, ITS TENANTS WATCH SNOWFLAKES COVER THE STREETS WITH A FINE WHITE COAT, KNOWING THAT THE SNOW HEALS A COLD THAT WON'T BE HELD BACK BY SHODDY INSULATION AND IRREGULAR BLASTS OF HEAT.

YES, LIFE AT 613 1869 AVENUE IS HARD IF YOU ASK ANYONE. ANYONE EXCEPT JAMES WINCHELL, ITS CHEAPSKATE LANDLORD.

"BY! WHEN YOU SONNA FIXXA HEAT? AIN'T BEEN WOOKIN' FOR DAYS!"

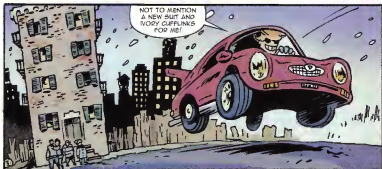
"--TWO-YEAR LEASE AND YOU WANT TO RAISE US BY THIRTY PER-CENT?"

"WINSTER WINCHELL! WE SEEN WAITIN' ONNA NEW PRIDE FOR A WEEK!"

"PEOPLE, PEOPLE--"

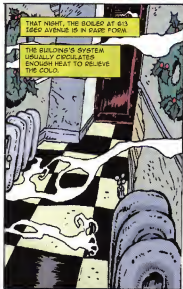




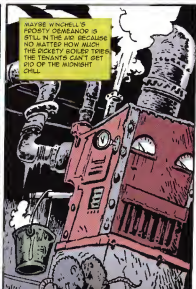


THAT NIGHT, THE BOILER AT 813
ICEO AVENUE IS IN RAPE FORM.

THE BUILDING'S SYSTEM
USUALLY CIRCULATES
ENOUGH HEAT TO RELIEVE
THE COLD.



WAYNE WINCHELL'S
FROSTY GEMANOR IS
STILL IN THE AIR BECAUSE
NO MATTER HOW MUCH
THE DICKETY BOILER TRIES
THE TENANTS CAN'T GET
RID OF THE MIDNIGHT
CHILL.



THE TENANTS MAKE DO WITH
COVERS AND LAYERS, HUGGING
FOR WARMTH.



BUT NO AMOUNT OF BLANKETS
CAN SAVE MRS. EUGENIA F. WILKES
IN APARTMENT 9-B.



IN THE MORNING, SOMEBODY
CALLS THE PARAMEDICS



THE PARAMEDICS, IN
TURN, CALL THE POLICE

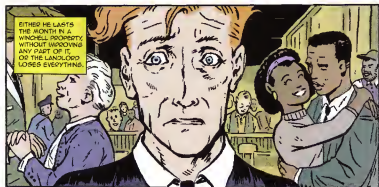
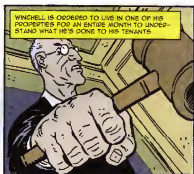
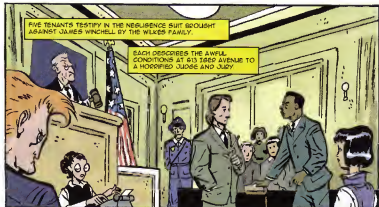


THE POLICE
CALL ON
MRS. WILKES'
GRANDSON



AND AFTER AN
APPROPRIATE AMOUNT
OF GRIEVING, MRS.
WILKES' GRANDSON
CALLS HIS LAWYER.

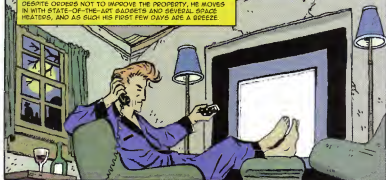






THE BUILDING IS CURRENTLY EMPTY, AND JAMES WINCHELL IS PROUD THAT HE CONVINCED THE COURT TO INSTALL HIM IN HIS ONLY PROPERTY THAT HAS NO TENANTS

DESPITE ORDERING NOT TO IMPROVE THE PROPERTY, HE MOVES IN WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART SADDLETS AND SEVERAL SPACE HEATERS, AND AS SUCH HIS FIRST FEW DAYS ARE A BREEZE



BUT ON THE THIRD NIGHT...



COLD COLD
COLD COLD COLD
COLD...!

MUST'VE
BLOWN A
FUSE.



OKAY, BOILER.
BOILER. WHERE'S
THE BOILER?

HOW HARD
CAN IT BE TO GET
SOME HEAT GOING? IF
CAVEMEN CAN DO IT
WITH
TWO STICKS, I'M SURE I
CAN DO IT





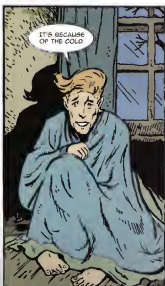
SERIOUSLY, WHERE'S THE SUPER WHEN YOU NEED HIM?

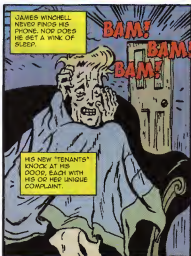


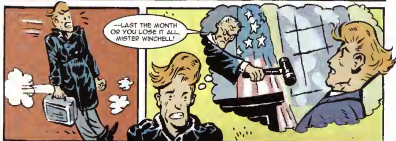


"EY,
MISTER--



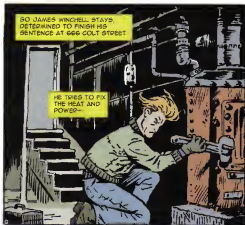






SO JAMES WINCHELL STAYS,
DETERMINED TO FINISH HIS
SENTENCE AT 666 COLT STREET.

HE TRIES TO FIX
THE HEAT AND
POWER—



BUT THE BUILDING IS
IN SUCH DISREPAIR
THAT NOTHING WORKS.



AND AS NIGHT FALLS AND
BRINGS THE WINTER CHILL...



ANOTHER OF WINCHELL'S
TENANTS ARRIVES WITH A
COMPLAINT.

HELLO?
MISTER
WINCHELL?

**NOK
NOK
NOK**







SEE?
DISGRACEFUL.

I LIKE A
TIDY PLOT, MISTER
WINCHELL. IF YOU'D
BE SO KIND...?

WH-WHAT?
YOU WANT
ME TO...?



NO! I MEAN, NO,
I CAN'T! I WON'T!
LEAVE ME ALONE!

BUT DEAD,
IT'S YOUR
JOB.

HEH...HAHAHA!
NO, IT'S NOT!
I'M THE LANDLORD...
I JUST OWN THE
BUILDING! I'M NOT
THE CARETAKER.



YOU GOT A
PROBLEM, TAKE
IT UP WITH HIM!

OOOH!



CARETAKER DIED
50X MONTHS
AGO.

SO FIX
THE LADY'S
GRAVE.
EY?





AND SO JAMES WINCHELL CLEANS
AND JAMES WINCHELL FIXES

HE REPAINTS HEADSTONES, TELLS
MOSS AND CLEANS EACH GRAVE



HE CLEANS EACH GRAVE AND HOPES THAT
HIS TENANTS WILL LEAVE HIM BE



A MONTH GOES
BY AND JAMES
WINCHELL RE-
TURNS TO HIS
COMFORTABLE
LIFE AND FANCY
APARTMENT...



BUT EACH
MORNING HE
RETURNS TO
666 COLT
STREET TO FIX
THE PLOTS,
MORGUES AND
CRYPTS

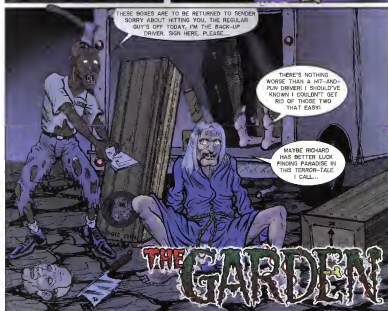


EACH DAY THE LINE BLURS A LITTLE MORE BETWEEN TENANT
AND LANDLORD AS JAMES WINCHELL ASSUMES HIS FATE
AS BOTH CARPENTER AND LANDLORD TO THE DEAD.

AND SO WE LEAVE JAMES WINCHELL, CHEAPSKATE LANDLORD OF 613 156TH AVENUE AND 686 COLT STREET, MAKING UP FOR A LIFETIME OF POOR CARPETAKING BY FINALLY LEARNING TO DO IT PROPERLY, DAY AFTER DAY, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...

...BECAUSE IF HE DOESN'T, LIKE MANY OF HIS PROPERTIES, HE'LL NEVER AGAIN SEE BETTER DAYS.





THE GATE DOESN'T CREAK
WHEN YOU OPEN IT. FOR
SOME REASON THIS FACT
LEAPS OUT AT YOU AS
SOON AS YOU ARRIVE,
DOESN'T IT, RICHARD?

THE HINGES ARE WELL
OILED, A FRESH COAT
OF PAINT SUSTAINS,
AND THERE'S NOT A
SPOT OF RUST ON IT.



THE SWEETNESS OF WILDFLOWERS
GOBBING IN THE SUN TICKLE YOUR
NOSE. THE CHIRPINS OF TINY SONG-
BIRDS COMFORTS YOUR EARS.

THE TREE BOWS,
THEY DROOP WITH
FRUIT.





MORE SUCCULENT THAN ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER TASTED BEFORE.

THICK CURLS OF GRAPEVINES SWATHED THE SURROUNDING WALLS, RIPE FOR THE VINEYARD.



JUST AS THEY SAID, RUNNING WATER BUBBLES EVERYWHERE.

FOR YOU, THAT WAS ONE OF THE SELLING POINTS OF THE PLACE.



YES, EVERYTHING IN THIS GARDEN, YOUR GARDEN, CONFORMS PRECISELY TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS.

...EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE NEVER LAID EYES ON IT BEFORE.

YOU TOOK THE BUS
TO YOUR NEW HOME.



YOU PACKED LIGHTLY
FOR THE TRIP.

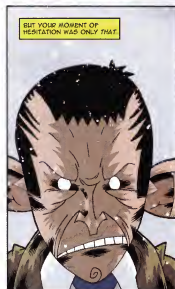


YOU HAD PLANNED FOR THE JOURNEY FOR WEEKS,
MADE ALL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS, SET
THE AFFAIRS OF YOUR OLD LIFE IN ORDER.



BUT STILL WHEN THE MOMENT OF EMBARK-
ATION WAS SET RIGHT BEFORE YOU, WHERE
YOU COULD SEE IT PLAIN.















IT'S THE ONLY
WAY OUT OF THE
ROOM, RICHARD!

THE ONLY WAY!



THAT IS...

THAT'S IT,
RICHARD. KEEP
GIVING US
ORDERS.

KEEP
BOSSING US
AROUND. WE LOVE
IT, RICHARD.

YES, WE
LOVE IT.

...UNLESS
YOU COUNT
THIS ONE.



DIDN'T THINK SO!



IT'S EVEN MORE PAINFUL THAN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE, WHICH YOU DIDN'T THINK POSSIBLE.

JABBED GLASS CUTTING, SLICING, TEARING.



YOUR THROBBING FEET SLAP AND SLIDE AND SKID ON THE SUDDEN SLICKNESS OF THE FLOOR!

YOUR PUSHERS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT SO HINDERED.



THIS IS NO TIME TO CATCH YOUR BREATH, RICHARD! YOU CAN HEAR THE CRUNCHING OF THEIR HEAVY BOOTS ON THE GLASS RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

KEEP RUNNING, RICHARD!

DON'T STOP...

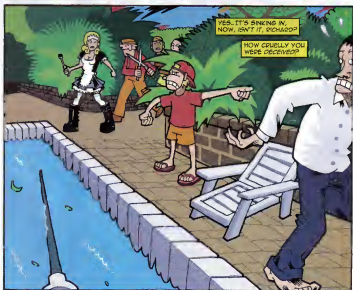










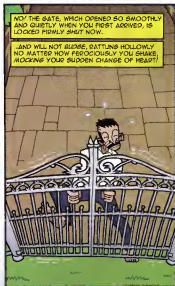




ESCAPE? THAT'S ALL THAT BURNS
IN YOUR BRAIN NOW!

YOUR DREAMS OF
LUXURY---FORGOTTEN!

PAST GLORIES---
CRUMBLED INTO DUST!



NO! THE GATE, WHICH OPENED SO SMOOTHLY
AND QUIETLY WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED, IS
LOCKED FIRMLY SHUT NOW.

...AND WILL NOT BUDGE, BATTING HOLLOWLY
NO MATTER HOW FEROCIOUSLY YOU SHAKE,
MOCKING YOUR SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART!



YOU HAD NO SUCH CHANGE OF
HEART ONCE YOU WERE ACTUALLY
ON THE BUS, THOUGH, DID YOU,
RICHARD?

NO...YOUR NEW FRIENDS HELPED
YOU MAKE THE VIDEO THE NIGHT
BEFORE. THE ONE WHERE YOU
TOLD THE NEWS MEDIA...

...AS WELL AS YOUR PARENTS, WHO NEVER QUITE UNDERSTOOD YOU. THE GIRLFRIENDS WHO DRIFTED AWAY FROM YOU AND YOUR COLDNESS...



THE NEIGHBORS WHO SHUNNED YOU AS SOME KIND OF WEIRDO...THE CO-WORKERS, THE BOSS WHO NEVER SAW YOU AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A FACELESS COB...

...ALL THE WAY UP TO THE POLITICIANS AND THE GENERALS, THEIR HANDS DRIPPING WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS

...THE PURVEYORS OF SHIT THAT PASSES FOR ENTERTAINMENT THESE DAYS...



...YOU TOLD THEM ALL IN YOUR VIDEO, DIDN'T YOU, RICHARD? YOU TOLD THEM THE COMMITMENT YOU HAD MADE!

SO YOU COULDN'T LET YOURSELF BE ARRESTED. NOW COULD YOU, BEFORE YOUR TASK WAS COMPLETED? WITH THAT VIDEO AS CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF YOUR FAILURE?

THE HUMILIATION WOULD BE WORSE THAN ANYTHING YOU COULD IMAGINE...



--THE SHARE THAT YOU HAD ROTCHED THE ONE, SIMPLE DUTY YOUR NEW FRIENDS, YOUR FELLOW WARRIORS HAD ENTRUSTED YOU WITH--



--TO BECOME A
SUICIDE BOMBER?





NO...IT'S NOT
FAIR...

...THEY
SAID...IF I DID
WHAT THEY SAID...I'D
GAIN...AUTOMATIC
ENTRY...

...INTO
PARADISE...



INCREDIBLE! THE WOUNDS ON YOUR FEET--THEY
HEALED ALMOST AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVED THEM.

BUT THEN, PERHAPS...THAT
WOULD STAND TO REASON.

AFTER ALL, NO ONE CAN DIE
IN THE AFTERLIFE.



FOR THE AFTERLIFE IS WHAT THIS IS.

BUT PARADISE?

APPARENTLY NOT



FOR THEY'RE HERE. THEY'RE
ALL HERE, RICHARD.



...EVERY SINGLE PERSON YOU MUR-
DERED ON THAT BUS IS HERE, RICHARD.



AND BECAUSE ALL THE WOUNDS YOU RECEIVE WILL QUICKLY HEAL, THEY
CAN SHOW YOU HOW... GRATEFUL THEY ARE TO YOU FOR SENDING THEM HERE.



FOREVER





THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S CORNER

Heh, heh! Greetings, kiddies, welcome to a quaint space-filling tradition called... a LETTERS PAGE. Nowadays, all we get in the mail are bills and ANTHRAX! Back in the days, fans sent letters opining on our terror yarns, and ranked which ones they liked and feared most! Well, **"THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S CORNER"** is back and open for business! Let's start with a couple of initial responses to the online preview of "Body of Work" by Marc Bulgrin and Mr. Evers.



Subject: TFFC art!

Wow, after seeing the art examples for your new Tales from the Crypt comic, all I can say is, "OUCH!" I am not commenting on the writing, as the art kept me from taking the time to read any of it. Perhaps you are trying to market this to young kids who have never come in contact with the original comics and reprints.

Regardless... all of the EC FanAddicts I have heard from feel that this stuff is really hard to look at. I have only seen the one artist that you have featured, and if this is the best you can come up with after being in the comics business for decades.... I suggest you go to the San Diego Comic Con and try to hire some "real" horror artist. Tomb Tales put out a similar product.... covers by real EC artists and interior pages that were hot and mss. It was a massive failure.

I can't say if you will do well with your product, but if you are counting on true EC fans to buy this stuff, you will probably be disappointed unless you invest in better art. The current art is too childish and the colorist should be painting circus wagons. Horror can be funny, but it needs to look scary.

Respectfully disappointed,

Bill Leisch, Editor/publisher

Horror From The Crypt Of Fear

Sa, Billy, you're not planning to join the Mr. Evers Fan Club, are you?

Subject: Thanks for ruining one of the greatest horror comics of all time!

This has to be a joke, right? I was very much looking forward to the Tales from the Crypt comic. I looked at the preview art for the book and it's safe to say you destroyed any chance on it being redeeming. I won't be supporting this and I am quite angry another company didn't pick it up. What demo-graphic are you trying to cater too? Adults!!!!!!

Phil Koza

Why, we want our demon graphics to appeal to all demographics, Phil! Now let's hear from some dead-heads who actually bought our premiere Papercuts masterpiece...

Subject: Great To See Tales From The Crypt Is Back... From The Dead

Hey!!!, I must say I was ecstatic to hear that Tales From The Crypt was being resurrected for a whole new generation to enjoy. I, being a child of the 80's, was not able to enjoy the Crypt's initial run. I was only able to read reprints and watch the television series. That's why when I picked up my first issue of Tales From The Crypt I had a gleam of hope in my eye. I was going to read a Tales From The Crypt that hardly anyone had read yet. Whereas with the reprints nothing was new and exciting anymore because it had been poorly imitated numerous times over. It's just great knowing there is going to be new stories coming from my favorite ghoul, the Crypt-Keeper. Keep up the good work!

Pat

Lockport, IL

Thanks, Pat, for your kind thoughts!

Subject: Tales from the Crypt

Hey and howdy! Just wanted to shoot you a quick double thumbs up on the release of Tales From The Crypt issue #1 this week. Loved it. Absolutely, wholeheartedly loved it. Takes me back to the good old days of the original series. I had never gotten the opportunity to read them when they were released "live," but I certainly picked them up when I found out about them in later years. During my formative educational "hey, comics are cool" years.

How much did I love this issue? Well, I wrote a review and posted it online:

<http://nond.permutedpress.com/index.php?archives/37-Tales-From-The-Crypt-Issue-1-pub-Papercuts.html>

Hope you like it.

Zombie Zak

Love us or hate us, thanks to everyone who took the time and trouble to write us! Now tell us what you thought of our sickly sinister second issue. Send your letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your crazed commentaries to our egomaniacal editor at: salscrap@papercuts.com.

That's all for now! Don't miss **TALES FROM THE CRYPT #3** for more misunderstood madness and possibly even...a lunatic letter from YOU!



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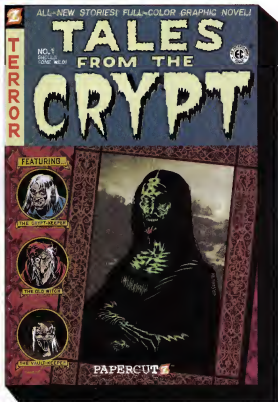
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YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
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KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL
WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"A MURDERIN' IDOL"

MORT TODD
WRITER
STEVE MANNION
ARTIST
DIGIKORE
COLOR
MARK LERER
LETTERER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

"SLABBED"

STEFAN PETRUCHA
WRITER
DON HUDSON
ARTIST
DIGIKORE
COLOR
MARK LERER
LETTERER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SALICRUP
WRITER
RICK PARKER
ARTIST/TITLE
LETTERER/CO-OR
MARK LERER
LETTERER
STEVE MANNION
COVER ARTIST

TERRY'S WRITER



THE PUBLISHER

JIM SALICRUP



THE OLD EDITOR

Concussions by Rick Parker

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IDOL!** AS NOT
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IT'S A RUTH-LESSMENT
PLAT & WANNABE SUPER-
STAR HAS OVERLOOKED

I'M HERE AT
THE FIRST DAY OF
TRYOUTS FOR NEXT
SEASON'S EDITION OF
POPSTAR IDOL--

OH, NO! WHY
DIDN'T YOU WAKE
ME UP? YOU KNEW
I WANTED TO BE
THERE, SLODIN!

--AS YOU CAN
SEE, THE CROWD IS
IMMENSE! MANY HAVE
BEEN IN LINE FOR DAYS
TO GET THEIR CHANCE TO
AUDITION FOR THE
HIT SHOW!



OH, JAYSAN! LOOK
HOW MANY PEOPLE
ARE THERE! YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
A CHANCE OF
GETTING IN!

I'VE GOT TO TRY! THIS
IS MY BIG CHANCE TO
BE A SUPERSTAR!



I KNOW I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO
BE THE NEXT IDOL! EVEN THOUGH I
HAVEN'T SUNG PROFESSIONALLY, I'VE
GOT THE LOOKS, THE MOVES AND
AN INCREDIBLE SINGING
VOICE!

MY MOM
TOLD ME
SO!

YOU
SHOULD BE
LOOKING FOR
A REAL JOB
INSTEAD OF
LIVING IN YOUR
FANTASY
WORLD!





DEJECTED BUT DETERMINED,
THE POTENTIAL POPSTAR
WANDERS BACK HOME...

DARN IT! I'M GONNA GET
IN LINE LATER TONIGHT TO
MAKE SURE I GET IN! I'D
SELL MY SOUL TO GET
ON THAT SHOW!



PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS THOUGHTS, HE
DOESN'T NOTICE A LARGE BOOK BLOCKING
HIS PATH AND STUMBLES OVER IT...



WHAT TH---? WHERE DID
THAT DARN THING COME
FROM?



BOOK OF
DREAM FULFILLMENT?
THIS THING LOOKS
ANCIENT AS
HELL!





COPYING THE ARCANIC FIGURES FROM THE BOOK, HE CONTEMPLATES HIS NEXT STEP...

I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE A BLOOD OFFERING TO SUMMON A DEMON TO GRANT MY WISH. B-BUT I CAN'T KILL SOMETHING... OR CAN I? I'VE GOT TO WIN ON POPSTAR IDOL!



PLACING A MOUSETRAP ON THE RUNE, HE LOADS IT WITH HEAPS OF PEANUT BUTTER...

GLORIA'S BEEN BUBBLING ME ABOUT GETTING RID OF THE MICE IN THE APARTMENT, SO I'LL MAKE HER WISH COME TRUE, TOO!



HIDING IN THE SHADOWS, JAYSAN DOESN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG...

HA! IT WORKED! NOW WHAT?!



BEFORE HIS ASTONISHED EYES, THE DEAD MOUSE IS CONSUMED IN FLAMES AND A STRANGE SMOKE RISES WITH AN OFFENSIVE SULFURIC SMELL!







AND TRUE TO THE DEMON'S PROMISE, JAYSAN AUDITIONS BEFORE SYLMON BOWELL, APAULA O'DOUL, AND RENELL JAXON!





PULLING FREE FROM JAYSAN, SLODIA
SLIPS ON SOME SOAPY WATER AND...



OH NO! SLODIA!
ARE YOU OKAY?



THERE IS NO RESPONSE AS HER
LIFELESS BODY STARTS TO IGNITE
ON TOP THE DEMONIC SYMBOLS!



A BIGGER
DEMON!

YOU
SUMMONED ME!
WHAT IS YOUR
WISH?











BUT JAYSAN DOES
HAVE HIS DOUBTS.

I'LL HAVE TO
MAKE SURE I'LL
MAKE ANOTHER
OFFERING SO BIG
I'LL HAVE
TO WIN!



THE NEXT DAY AT REHEARSAL.

EVEN THOUGH
IT'S EVERY MAN FOR
HIMSELF, GOOD LUCK,
JAYSAN! I--WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

ER, I'M
AN ARTIST IN MY
SPARE TIME AND THIS
IS A GOOD LUCK
SYMBOL I LIKE
TO DRAW!



HEY, WHATEVER! IT'S
KINDA ODD, BUT IF IT
WORKS FOR YOU--



WHOMP!

ACCKK!





I KILLED HIM! AND THOSE FLAMES WILL CONSUME ALL EVIDENCE OF WHAT I DID!



WOW! THIS IS THE BIGGEST DEMON YET! HE'S SURE TO GRANT ME MY ULTIMATE WISH!

I WANT TO WIN POPSTAR IDOL!!!

NOT SO FAST!



THOUGH THIS MAY BE YOUR GREATEST OFFERING YET, IT IS STILL NOT ENOUGH! ALL I CAN GUARANTEE IS THAT YOU WILL BECOME A FINALIST. THE REST IS UP TO YOU!

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? MURDER THE WHOLE AUDIENCE?

KNOCK KNOCK



SORRY TO INTERRUPT... ISN'T CECIL HERE WITH YOU? AND WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

UM, NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM, AND I'M AFRAID I HAVE A LITTLE GAS PROBLEM WHEN I'M NERVOUS!





I'M GOING TO BE A FINALIST BUT TO MAKE SURE I WIN, I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHO WOULD MAKE THE GREATEST SACRIFICE POSSIBLE TO MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE!



SURE ENOUGH, WHEN THE LAST TWO FINALISTS ARE ANNOUNCED, ONE OF THEM IS...

YAHYY!!
WHOO-HOO!!
JAYSAN!!

---JAYSAN!

THE AUDIENCE LOVES ME!



MAYBE I CAN WIN ON MY OWN WITHOUT ANY MODE DEMONIC HELP!



WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE FINALISTS, SLYMON?

AN UTTER TRAVESTY! WE'VE SEEN SOME REAL TALENT GET VOTED OFF IN FAVOR OF THAT CATERWALLING BANSHEE, JAYSAN! IF HE WINS, IT'LL BE A NEW LOW FOR MUSICAL STANDARDS!

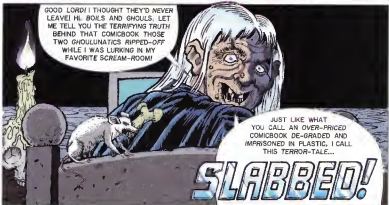
I WOULD WIN IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT ROWELL ALWAYS BAD-MOUTHING ME! HE JUST VOTED HIMSELF AS TOP FINALIST FOR THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE THAT WILL ASSURE MY VICTORY!

ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE FINAL SHOW, JAYSAN ARRANGES A MEETING WITH SYLWYN.











NO! PLEASE!
PLEASE! I'M
BEGGING YOU!

DEDDICK! GIVE
IT BACK! IT'S MY
FAVORITE, MOST
VALUABLE COMIC
EVER!

BEWARE EVIL-
DOERS! WE'RE
COMING FOR
YOU! THEN
IT'S ALL OVER!
JUST US!

WHAT COMIC?
I DON'T SEE ANY
COMIC! YOU MUST
BE DREAMING!







RICO? Y-Y-
YOU'RE HERE
ALREADY?

YEAH.

IS MY
MONEY HERE,
TOO?



N-N-NOT YET
BUT I'M ON MY WAY
TO S-S-SELL THIS!

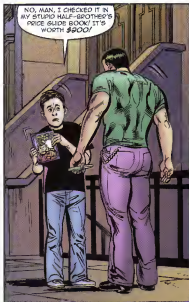
JUST US
LEAGUE #1.
BIE' NICE.



BUT THAT THING
LOOKS LIKE IT'S
BEEN READ
A LOT.

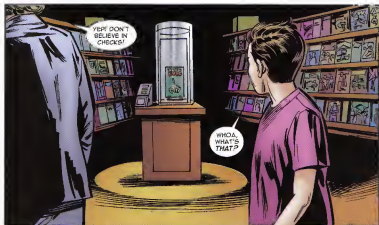
AIN'T WORTH SO
MUCH IF IT'S BEEN
READ A LOT, SOME-
THING COMES OFF
THE PRICE.

WHICH MEANS
I MAY HAVE TO
TAKE SOMETHING
OFF YOU.











WOW! WHAT'S IT WORTH?

THE MOST VALUABLE COMIC IN EXISTENCE! PURE EVIL #1

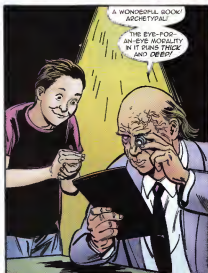


WORTH? YOU CAN'T MEASURE THESE THINGS IN DOLLARS!



BUT—LET'S JUST SAY THAT IF I SOLD IT, MY ENTIRE FAMILY COULD RETIRE IN LUXURY!

OF COURSE, THE ONLY WAY I'D EVER PART WITH IT WOULD BE IF I WERE DEAD! DEAD! HA-HA!



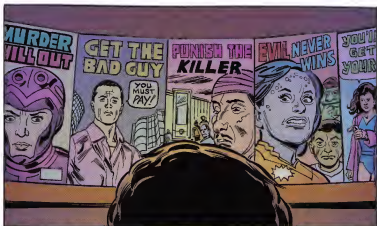














IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
THAT WAS THE OLD
MAN'S FACE!



IT'S SOME KIND
OF TRICK!



THAT'S NOT A WALL!
IT'S SOME KIND OF
PLASTIC!





I MUST BE
DREAMING!

ANY SECOND
NOW, I'M GOING
TO WAKE UP! I
KNOW IT!



SOMEONE
WAKE ME UP!

AFTER A LIFETIME OF COLLECTING
HEROES, I FINALLY FIGURED IT WAS
TIME TO COLLECT A FEW VILLAINS
TO BALANCE THINGS!

IT'D NO
IDEA HOW EASY
IT WOULD BE!

HA-HA-HA-
HA!



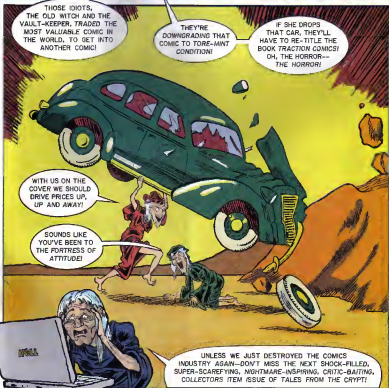
THE END



YOU KNOW,
KIDDIES, IT'S JUVENILE
DELINQUENTS SUCH AS
DERRICK THAT GIVE COMICS
A REALLY BAD NAME!

OH, NO!
WHAT'S THIS?!

HELL



THOSE IDIOTS,
THE OLD WITCH AND THE
VAULT-KEEPER, TRADED THE
MOST VALUABLE COMIC IN
THE WORLD, TO GET INTO
ANOTHER COMIC!

THEY'RE
DOWNGRADING THAT
COMIC TO TORE-MINT
CONDITION!

IF SHE DROPS
THAT CAR, THEY'LL
HAVE TO RE-TITLE THE
BOOK, TRACTION COMICS!
OH, THE HORROR---
THE HORROR!

WITH US ON THE
COVER WE SHOULD
DRIVE PRICES UP,
UP AND AWAY!

SOUNDS LIKE
YOU'VE BEEN TO
THE FORTRESS OF
ATTITUDE!

UNLESS WE JUST DESTROYED THE COMICS
INDUSTRY AGAIN--DON'T MISS THE NEXT SHOCK-FILLED,
SUPER-SCAREFYING, NIGHTMARE-INSPIRING, CRITIC-BAITING,
COLLECTORS ITEM ISSUE OF TALES FROM THE CRYPT!



Salutations, you CRAZED CONSUMERS of PUTRID PAPER-CUTZ PUBLICATIONS! Time once again for our VICIOUS VERBAL exchanges, regarding our previous phantasmaGORYcal issues!

But first, here's the SHOCKING results of the voting on *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* #2! "THE TENANT" by Neil Kleid and Steve Mannion just narrowly beat out "THE GARDEN" by Fred Van Lente and Mr. Essex as BEAST, er, best story!

For any of you FOOLISH FRIGHT-FANS who missed our first two TERROR-FILLED issues, I've got good news for you! Our GREEDY publishers have rushed paperback and hardcover books into print collecting most of those stories — they're cleverly called *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* #1 "Ghouls Gone Wild!" and it's on sale now at BOOKSTORES everywhere! There's even an all-new TERROR-TALE by Don McGregor and Sho Murase called "RUNWAY ROADKILL!" that's to DIE for!

Subject: Tales from the Crypt!

It's hard to put into words exactly how happy I was to discover that PaperCutz is publishing new TFC comics (and I am NOT a comic book person). I was always a huge fan of the show, but have never had the good fortune to get my hands on one of the comics. So I settled for perceiving the guys at my local comic store (monthly) for anything similar. I managed to find a compilation of "The House of Mystery," but hungered for more. Today, I got it. And I'm stoked I am dying (ha ha) for the next issue to hot the stands. Thanks so much for resurrecting this awesome comic. I'll be with you guys till the end.

Natalie Vazquez,
Puerto Rico

Just wait the end, Natalie? What kind of fickle fan are you?

Subject: New Tales From the Crypt Comics

Hallo, I am writing in regards to your new Tales From the Crypt comicbook series. While I appreciate your efforts to revive such a quality publication, I feel that you are going about it incorrectly. You say that you want to keep true to the original, yet you've toned down the content to such a degree, that it doesn't even resemble the horrors from half a century ago. Even though it may seem somewhat tame now, back in the day, Tales from the Crypt was considered very edgy and gory. Had it not been for the atmosphere at the time, it would have been even more visceral! Now, standards are such that you can get away with putting a lot more violent content in comicbooks. By toning down the blood, you are not only abiding by standards that are over half a century old, but you are being less gory than even the original comics were!

I also feel that you do not understand the way Tales from the Crypt "shock" endings work. You acknowledge and utilize shock at the end, but not in the way they were intended. You can't just have some random twist at the end, it has to have a social message to it (a "perisidy"). Additionally, the end is typically met with a bloody surprise. This final panel is met with a narrative box that describes the gore-shock in great detail, which gives the reader a better description and creates a sense of uneasiness.

Now, we have to talk about the artwork. I don't expect you to mimic the realistic noir-esque panels of the original to a tee, but at least give it a shot. Your artwork in these new comics doesn't even look remotely realistic. It looks like something out of a damn Nickelodeon cartoon!

In closing, I would like to ask you to please reconsider your new vision of these comics or discontinue them and let the crypt rest peacefully while you concentrate on Nancy Drew or something.

Nathan Wakefield

I feel your pain, Nathan. Unfortunately, I'm stuck with Sallcrap as editor!

Subject: TFC Stories

I've read some of the comments about the art seeming like it's geared more towards young children. And while I somewhat agree with that... the stories are quite good and very mature! I thought that they were very nostalgic of the classic EC Tales from The Crypt comics. In the last issue I really enjoyed "The Garden," it kept me guessing all the way 'til the end. But "The Tenant" was definitely my favorite. It really reminded me of the typical 'Poetic Justice' that was often dealt from the old Tales from The Crypt stories.

CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!!

Jeremy Seth Brauner
Tustin, CA

No need to wait, Jeremy—it's here!

Subject: smiling to you, dear

My dear friend, I am poetry and passionate Ukrainian woman, but I am lonely. My heart dies without love as beautiful flower dies without water. I need to love and to be beloved as rose needs to be watered every day. I need kisses and love as no flower can't live without sunny rays. Waiting for your response.

Joel

Get back to me after you die, Joel! (Got to get a new spam-filter!)

Subject: Thanks for renaming the greatest comic of all time.

Hi, I've been a fan of Tales from the Crypt for a long time now. Too young for the initial run, but I read a bunch of the reprints, and watched the show. I just finished the new issue #2, and have to say the new comics completely and totally lived up to the originals, the stories are just as creepy, and the art is just completely fabulous. My only complaint is that there is no possibility to get a subscription to "TFC." Just leaving my opinion, and asking if you are going to also revive the "Vault of Horror" and "Haunt of Fear"? Thanks,

A Fan

An interesting query, Al! What do the rest of you EC Fan-Addicts think?

As for subscRYPTions, just send us a check or money order, in US funds only, for \$24.00 for a one-year, six-issue subscription to TALES FROM THE CRYPT. Subscriptions begin with the next issue published after we receive your order.

Subject: Keep up the good work!

Hey, I'd just like to say that I LOVE YOUR TALES FROM THE CRYPT COMICS!! I still love the originals, but these are easier for me to read (I'm 13). The artwork is semi-good in "The Garden" though. My favorite comic so far was in issue #2 called "The Tenant." Keep up the terror-ific work! Thank you to the people and my favorite dead-wood star, The Crypt-Keeper! I am in love with the HBO series but most defiantly the comics! I grew up with them since my parents are horror fiend-itis! Love the comics and love the gore!

Maggot Kisses,
Lesley

Thanks, Lesley! If we haven't rotted your young mind yet, maybe we will next issue!

That's all for now! Don't miss TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4—featuring virtual madness by Neil Kleid and Chris North entitled "Extra Life" and a prescient preachy by Dun McGregor, James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook called "Crystal Clear!"

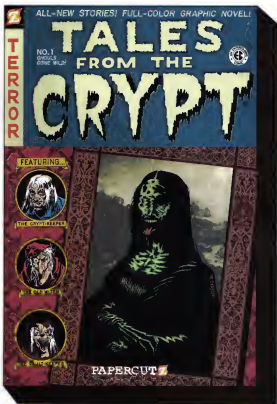
And keep those emails and letters coming, kiddies! Tell us what you thought of this teratoid, yet transcendental third issue. Send your letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your critical commentaries to our egomaniacal editor at: sallcrap@papercrete.com.

E.C. FANS!

**YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
SO HERE IT IS! THE COLLECTION
YOU'VE DEMANDED!**



COLLECTING STORIES BY MARC BILGREY & MR. EXES, ROB VOLLMAR
& TIM SMITH 3, NEIL KLEID & STEVE MANNION - PLUS AN
ALL-NEW STORY BY DON MCGREGOR & SHO MURASE!

ON SALE NOW AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE!



TERROR



NO. 4
ALL-NEW!

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



THE CRYPT OF TERROR

WELCOME TO THE CRYPT OF TERROR, HORROR FIENOS! YES, IT'S ME AGAIN... THE CRYPT-KEEPER! BACK AGAIN TO HOST MY MAD-MAG, TALES FROM THE CRYPT!

NOW IT MAY LOOK LIKE I'VE HIT BOTTOM, LAYING HERE IN THIS GRUESOME OPEN GRAVE, BUT THE TERRIFYING TRUTH IS I'M REALLY BACK IN THE CRYPT OF TERROR. YOU'RE JUST LOOKING AT THE VIRTUAL CRYPT-KEEPER!

YOU SEE, I'VE JUST GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THE OLD WITCH AND THE VAULT-KEEPER! EVER SINCE THE UNSPEAKABLE HAPPENED BACK IN THE 50s, THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN BUZZING AROUND ME LIKE FLIES OVER A FRESH CORPSE! THEIR CONSTANT JIBBER-JABBER HAS DRIVEN ME TOO AN EARLY GRAVE!

WHICH REMINDS ME OF THIS FEAR-FABLE ABOUT A RATHER DESPICABLE CHARACTER CALLED STONY BLAKE, A DRUG DEALER WHO WAS WIRED FOR SOUND. CONFUSED? DON'T BE - SOON EVERYTHING WILL BE...

CRYSTAL CLEAR



FOR STONY BLAKE,
LIFE WAS GOOD.

HE COULD BEAT ONE
OF HIS CRYSTAL METH
CUSTOMERS TO A PULP
WHO OWED HIM MONEY—

—AND BROADCAST THE IMAGE TO HIS RIGHT-
HAND STOOGES AND ENFORCERS. CURLY.

NOW, DRUGGIE, I
GAVE YOU SOME-
THING TO BE REALLY
PARANOID ABOUT.

STONY MADE A
LOT OF CONTACTS
FLYING HIS PLANE
OVER BORDERS AND
STATE LINES AND
WHEN RETURNING TO
HIS MID-WESTERN
HOMETOWN, OVER
FARMLANDS TRYING
TO STAY ECONOMIC-
ALLY ALIVE.

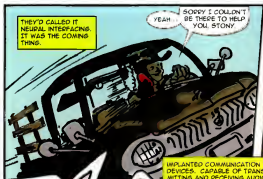
SET WHAT YOU OWE ME,
OR YOU'LL WISH YOU
WERE ONLY GETTING
HIT BY MY FISTS.

STAYING ALIVE
ECONOMICALLY
WASN'T A PRO-
BLEM FOR A DRUG
ENTREPRENEUR
LIKE STONY, WHO
LIVED MUCH OF
HIS LIFE ON THE
PHONE.

A MAN WHO KNEW A MAN
WHO KNEW A WOMAN TOLD
HIM THEY'D PERFECTED A
CELLPHONE FOR PEOPLE
TO HAVE THE ULTIMATE
COMMUNICATION.

CINE-PHONE

CURLY,
YOU CATCHING
ALL THIS?



THEY'D CALLED IT
NEURAL INTERFACING.
IT WAS THE COMING
THING.

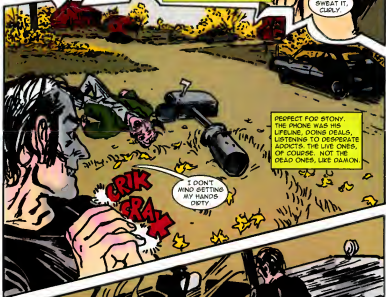
YEAH...

SORRY I COULDN'T
BE THERE TO HELP
YOU, STONY.

IMPLANTED COMMUNICATION
DEVICES. CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING
AND RECEIVING AUDIO
AS WELL AS VIDEO.



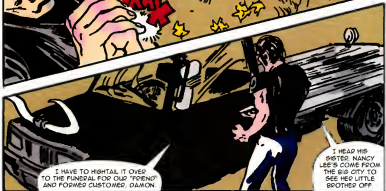
DON'T
SWEAT IT,
CURLY.



PERFECT FOR STONY.
THE PHONE WAS HIS
LIFELINE, DOING DEALS,
LISTENING TO DESPERATE
ADDICTS. THE LIVE ONES,
OF COURSE. NOT THE
DEAD ONES, LIKE DAMON.

CRICK
CRACK

I DON'T
MIND GETTING
MY HANDS
DIRTY



I HAVE TO RUSH IT OVER
TO THE FUNERAL FOR OUR "FRIEND"
AND FORMER CUSTOMER, DAMON.

I HEAR HIS
SISTER, NANCY
LEE'S COME FROM
THE BIG CITY TO
SEE HER LITTLE
BROTHER OFF.



STONY LOVED IT. HE
DIDN'T HAVE TO FREEZE
HIS FINGERS OFF IN THE
COLD, HOLDING A CELL-
PHONE TO HIS NUMB EAR

KEEP TUNED,
CURLY

A PHONE CALL DIDN'T STOP
HIM FROM USING HIS HANDS
FOR WHATEVER ELSE HE MIGHT
BE DOING AT A GIVEN MOMENT

I SEE NANCY LEE NOW
STILL LOOKING PRETTY
GOOD

WAY I
REMEMBER
HER--

--FROM WHEN
SHE WAS GROWING INTO
A WOMAN. I'LL TEACH
YOU SOMETHING HERE

STONY HAD THE STRAY THOUGHT THAT
DAMON HAD HEARD VOICES IN HIS HEAD
AT THE END, MAYBE SOME OF THE VOICES
CRYSTAL METH-PEO--

--WITH PARANOID PHRASES
AND FANTASIES BECOMING
DRUG-FED REALITIES

STONY WAS THE MASTER
OF THE VOICES IN HIS HEAD.

HE DECIDED WHAT VOICES
HE WOULD HEAR AND NOT HEAR,

WHAT HE WOULD SEE
AND NOT SEE.

SEE YA,
DAMON--HOPEFULLY
NOT TOO SOON

STONY--OULD ENVISION
DAMON'S EYES IN HIS HOSE
T DAYS BEFORE HE DIED;
HEARD THE HUBBLED
NATE THE DE--NE
THS L--ABLE YOUNG
I DESPAIR FED BY
PECS OF CRYSTAL
US--FROM STONY,
HAD MASTERED OICES

THE CONSPIRACIES,
THE ERODING SELF-ESTEEM, CONVINCING
DAMON THAT PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE HIM,
WHEN IN FACT, MANY PEOPLE LOVED HIM--

--IN THE END, THE METH-ENFLAMED
VOICES SCREAMED INCESSANTLY
ALONG WITH DELUSIONAL NIGHTMARES
IN DAMON'S HEAD--

--UNTIL DAMON
SILENCED THE
VOICES BY ENDING
HIS LIFE

NANCY LEE, SO
SAD WE HAVE TO
MEET LIKE THIS. I'M
SO SORRY FOR
YOUR LOSS.

I'VE HEARD SO
MANY STORIES ABOUT
YOU, STONY. DOESN'T
SOUND ANYTHING LIKE
THE PERSON I GREW
UP WITH.

SMALL TOWN
FOLKS LIKE TO
GOSSEP, YOU
KNOW THAT.

ME, I HEARD YOU'D
BECOME A NURSE.
THAT TRUE?

YES.

SOME OF THESE RUMORS
FLYING AROUND—
—PEOPLE
ARE FLAPPING
THEIR GUMS THAT
YOU'RE SELLING
DRUGS.

I JUST WANT
YOU TO KNOW, I
DON'T BELIEVE A
WORD OF IT.

TELL YOU
WHAT—

WHY DON'T YOU
LET ME TAKE YOU OUT
TO DINNER, AND WE'LL
TALK ABOUT DAMON
AND YOU AND ME
AND OLD TIMES.





STONY CAN'T QUITE
FATHOM WHAT HAPPENED

THERE WAS
NANCY LEE'S
WARMTH AND
CLOSENESS--

--AND THEN
COLD AND DARK

WHAT IS THIS?
HE CAN'T MOVE!

HE'S ON HIS OWN BED, AND
HE CAN'T TWITCH A FINGER.
MOVE AN ARM, MOVE A LEG

THIS ISN'T HOW IT IS
SUPPOSED TO BE

AS SOON AS I RETURNED
TO THIS TOWN AND SAW
YOUR HOUSE, SAW ALL THIS,
I KNEW ALL THE RUMORS
WERE TRUE.

THIS PLACE..
EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE..

IT WAS
ALL BOUGHT ON
DRUG MONEY.

MONEY THAT
COST MY BROTHER
HIS LIFE.

THAT'S WHEN
I DECIDED YOU
WEREN'T GOING
TO GET AWAY
WITH IT.

I'D BEEN
ENTERTAINING
THE IDEA FROM
THE TIME YOU
WERE NUZZLING
MY NECK AT THE
RESTAURANT.

THAT'S WHY I
BROUGHT THIS
ALONG ON OUR
LITTLE DATE.

A NIFTY
DRUG THAT
IMMOBILIZES
THE BODY!

I LOVE WATCHING
YOU TRY TO MOVE..
AND THE PANIC IN YOUR
EYES. AS YOU REALIZE
YOU CAN'T!





IT'S BECAUSE
OF YOU YOU
MAGGOT--

--DAEMON'S
IN THAT
COFFIN.

BECAUSE YOU
FEED ON HUMAN
INSECURITY AND
DESPAIR?



NANCY LEE,
YOU LISTEN UP!
YOU'VE GONE
OUT OF YOUR
MIND. DOING
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.

WHUP



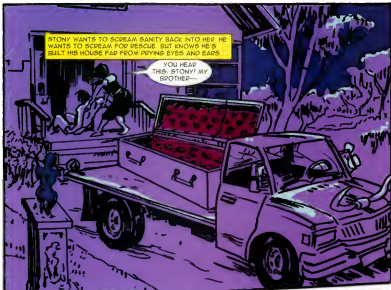
YOU'RE
A GOOD
GIRL.

YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN A
GOOD GIRL.

YOU'D
EVEN
FEEL GUILTY
ABOUT SWINGS
ON THAT SWING
WE WEREN'T
SUPPOSED TO
SWING ON.
REMEMBER?

STONY WANTS TO SCREAM SANITY BACK INTO HER. HE WANTS TO SCREAM FOR RESCUE, BUT KNOWS HE'S BUILT HIS HOUSE FAR FROM POYING EYES AND EARS.

YOU HEAR THIS, STONY? MY BROTHER—



--WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE--



--BURIED TODAY!





IF ONLY HIS CAMERA PHONE WERE ON. IF ONLY HE COULD GET THE THING TO SWITCH ON.

IT WOULD BE A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY, THEN!



NANCY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

LET'S THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, OKAY?

YOU CAN TAKE IT TO THE BANK, STONY... I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINKING.



NO ONE'S GOING TO HEAR YOU OR FIND YOU.



AND YOU KNOW IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS, STONY—

—NO ONE HEREABOUTS IS REALLY GOING TO LOOK FOR YOU TOO HARD.



STONY!

STONY ALMOST HAS A HEART ATTACK WHEN HE HEARS CURLY'S VOICE. LOUD WITH CONCERN IN HIS EAR

THE CAMERA PHONE! IT'S ON! MUST HAVE TRIGGERED THE MECHANISM WHEN HE WHACKED HIS HEAD INTO THE COFFIN BOTTOM!



STONY,
CAN YOU HEAR
ME NOW? CAN
YOU HEAR?

I HEAR
YOU, CURLY.
CAN YOU SEE
WHAT I
SEE?

YEAH. NIGHT SKY!
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S THE CRAZY
SISTER, CURLY!

SHE'S HOT
WE ZONKED OUT
ON SOME KIND
OF DRUG

I DON'T
EVEN HAVE THE
TWITCH OF A DEATH
NERVE, THAT'S HOW
STRONG THIS
STUFF IS!



WE'RE
GOING OFF ROAD,
CURLY! YOU SEE
THAT?

WHAT I'M STILL
SEEING IS JUST
NIGHT SKY
WHIZZING BY.



LISTEN, CURLY, THIS
NUTSO'S GOT ME IN
A COFFIN. YOU
HEAR THAT?

YOU REALLY
GOTTA HEAR ME
NOW! NO FOOLING
AROUND!

FIND ME!



YOU HAPTA
GIVE ME
SOMETHING
TO GO ON!

I MEAN,
FROM THE STARS,
APPEARS TO ME
YOUR TRAVELING
NORTHWEST.



BUT THERE'S
A WHOLE LOTTA
NORTHWEST OUT
HERE!





AH! I SEE
YOU GOT
YOUR PHONE
WORKING AGAIN
FOR A MINUTE
I WAS AFRAID
YOU'D LOST
YOUR MIND
AND WERE
BAGGINS TO
YOURSELF

YOU
KNOW
ABOUT MY
EMBEDDED
CAMERA
PHONE?



SINCE ABOUT
THE TIME YOU
WERE NUZZLING MY
NECK FOR YOUR
AUDIENCE.



THAT'S
GOOD
YOU'LL HAVE
COMPANY TO SEE
YOU THROUGH TO
THE END

THEY'LL
KNOW YOUR
FATE!

THAT
COULD BE A
GOOD THING

MAYBE
WHOEVER'S ON
THE OTHER END WILL
SEE THE ERROR OF
THEIR WAYS

REALIZE THIS
IS WHAT HAPPENS
TO LIES LIKE
YOU!



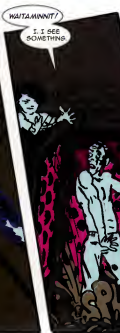
OH, MAN, CUDLY!
SHE'S UP TO SOME-
THING! SHE'S SHOVING
THE COFFIN OFF THE
TRUCK.

YOU SHAME
ONE CLUE THAT
PINPOINTS WHERE
YOU ARE, BOSS,
AND I'M THERE!



I'M TRYING
TO SEE!

THE COFFIN'S
TILTING. MAYBE,
I'LL SEE SOME-
THING THEN!



WAIT A MINNIT!

I. I SEE
SOMETHING



WHAT
IS THAT?

SPLUCH!





THIS SEEMS A FITTING PLACE FOR YOU TO SPEND ETERNITY, STONY!

THE PLACE WHERE WE GREW UP--

--BEFORE YOU BETRAYED US ALL! ENJOY!



ONLY ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND HE COULD BE SAVED

IT ISN'T FAIR! HIS MIND SCREAMS--



--BECAUSE HIS MOUTH CANNOT!



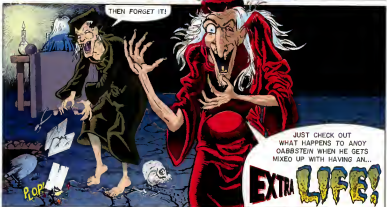
CURLY SQUINTS AT WHAT IS IN THE CENTER OF THE SMALL IMAGE. WHAT IS THAT?

A CHILD'S SWING?



WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THAT IMAGE?

FRAME IT AS A USELESS NORMAN ROCKWELL SCENE? FOR CURLY, IT'S ABOUT AS FAR REMOVED FROM HIS WORLD AS THAT PAINTING. IT MEANS NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL



I'VE BEEN DEAD FOR HOURS.

KILLED BY MY FRIENDS,
ROBBED OF EVERYTHING I
OWNED, I'M THE LATE, ONCE-
GREAT, ANDY DARGSTEN.

AND SITTING HERE, SO
SCARED AND SWEATING—
ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS
HOW TO STOP IT FROM
HAPPENING AGAIN.

HOW TO STOP IT
FROM HAPPENING
FOR REAL.





I WAS BORN ANDREW FRANCIS DAGGSTEIN BUT I HAD A SECOND NAME. ANOTHER LIFE.

LIVING TWO LIVES WASN'T EASY. ALMOST LIKE A CHEATER, JUGGLING TO KEEP A WIFE AND GIRLFRIEND APART.

I NEVER CHEATED ON CAMMY, THOUGH. SHE KNEW EVERY DETAIL ABOUT MY LIFE...AND MY OTHER LIFE.



EVEN THE WOMEN THERE.

CAMMY'S GONE NOW. AS ARE THE OTHER WOMEN. THEY'RE GONE AND I'M DEAD.

I WAS HONEST TO THEM ABOUT MY DUAL LIVES AND BECAUSE OF THAT, MY WORLDS COLLIDED.



BECAUSE OF THAT I WAS KILLED ON THE BALBOOTH PLANS.



CAROLY DIDN'T LIKE
EVENBLADE. SHE WAS
AN ANDY GIRL.

THAT SUNDAY
THOUGH, SHE
HATED ANDY
HIS LACK OF
DRIVE, HIS LACK
OF INITIATIVE.



I NEVER UNDER-
STOOD THAT
EVENBLADE HAD
INITIATIVE AND
SHE HATED
EVENBLADE.

SHE COULD
BE SO
FRUSTRATING!




THAT NIGHT IT WASN'T EVENBLADE
WHO KILLED FIFTY BALTHORIAN
OGRES AND WON 800 GOLD P.

IT WAS ANDY.







WITHOUT A METROCARD OR CAB FARE, I HAD TO WALK TO WORK.

CARAWAY WOULDN'T LOAN ME THE CASH. SHE WAS STILL ANGRY.

SHE BLAMED ME FOR LOSING THE WALLET, CALLING ME CARELESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE.

ANDY GOT A GOODBYE KISS.



LATER THAT NIGHT, AS CARAWAY SLEPT, ANDY UNBURDENED HIS HEART TO KYRA DAVENHAIR.

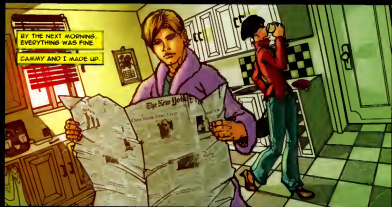
I REVEALED PERSONAL SECRETS I HADN'T TOLD ANYONE, EVEN CARAWAY.



22



444



ANDY GOT A
GOODBYE KISS.

AND EVENBLADE
EMBARKED ON A
WRAITH HUNT.

KYRA JOINED THE
FELLOWSHIP AS WE
SEARCHED FOR
BLOODWRAITH GOLD
AND VAMPIRE BATS.



WE ENCOUNTERED A
WRAITH PACK IN THE
THIRD CAVERN.

HORKIN THE
MINOTAUR AND
KYRA RETREATED.
STEELHEART #7
AND I FOUGHT ON,
EARNING 400P EACH.



12



8411

WHILE WE WAITED FOR THE
REMAINING WRAITHS TO TIRE
AND WANDERED OFF, WE PASSED
THE TIME.

AND THEN STEELHEART STARTED
JOKING ABOUT SECRETS FROM
ANDY'S PERSONAL LIFE.

SECRETS I HAD
TOLD KYRA IN
CONFIDENCE THE
NIGHT BEFORE.





KYRA SAID SHE ASSUMED THE SECRETS WERE FAIR PLAY, LIKE WHEN I TOLD THEM ABOUT GAWWY... BUT I WAS ANGRY!

I WANTED TO KEEP ANDY'S AND EVENBLADE'S WORLDS AS SEPARATE AS POSSIBLE



STEELHEART67 WAS SO ABSORBED IN OUR ARGUMENT...



...THAT HE NEVER NOTICED THE WRAITHS SNEAKING UP THE SIDE OF THE CAVERN



HORKUN AND I FOUGHT THEM BACK, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE

MY PROBLEMS HAD COST STEELHEART67 HIS ARM

AND THE NEXT DAY, HE WAS GONE.

WOUNDED AND DISILLUSIONED, STEELBLADEST RAN A SOLO CAMPAIGN AND WAS KILLED BY A HORDE OF GOBLINS.

KYRA AND I AVOIDED EACH OTHER. SHE WAS MORTIFIED AND I FELT BETRAYED.

BOTH OF US.



FEELING UNINSPIRED, I LEFT EARLY FOR WORK.

CAMMY'D BEEN GONE FOR HOURS AND SINCE WE COULDN'T SHARE A CAR, I TOOK THE 'A' TRAIN.



MY HEAD WAS SO FILLED WITH KYRA'S BETRAYAL THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE PEOPLE LAUGHING AT ME UNTIL THE TRAIN PULLED INTO THE STATION.





ONE OF THE
MEN BEHIND
ME WHISPERED
SOMETHING TO
HIS FRIEND, A
LITTLE SECRET
JOKE

BUT IT WAS NO
SECRET TO ME



HE WAS WHISPERING
A PRIVATE FANTASY
I'D TOLD KYRA THE
OTHER NIGHT. ONE
OF THE SECRETS
THAT HAD COST
STEELBLADE'S LIFE

FUMING, I ASKED HIM
HOW HE KNEW? WHO
HAD TOLD HIM?



DID HE WALK THE OBSCURE
CONTINENT? DID HE KNOW
KYRA? WAS HE STEELBLADE'S?

BUT HE JUST
LAUGHED AT ME



THE HARDER HE
LAUGHED, THE
ANGRIER I GOT

ANDY WAS HURT
AND BETRAYED

EVENBLADE
WAS HURT AND
BETRAYED





MY SECRETS HAD KILLED
TWO PEOPLE, EACH IN A
DIFFERENT WORLD.

EVENTS IN EVENBLADE'S
LIFE WERE AFFECTING
ANDY'S AND THE
ANSWERS COULD ONLY
BE FOUND ONLINE.

KYRA WASN'T IN THE
PALADIN'S KEEP.

HORKUN CONFIRMED IT. AFTER OUR
DISASTROUS HUNT, SHE'D CANCELLED
HER OSSE CONTINENT SERVICE. AS FAR
AS WE MATTERED, KYRA RAVENHAIR NO
LONGER EXISTED.



THE STAFF HADN'T
SEEN HER FOR
HOURS AND HER
OSSEMAL
ACCOUNT WASN'T
WORKING.

EVENBLADE'S
GIRLFRIEND NO
LONGER EXISTED.



...MY GIRLFRIEND NO
LONGER EXISTED...

GIMMY.



CAMMY'S CELL PHONE DIDN'T WORK. NO SUCH NUMBER.

HER JOB HAD NO RECORD OF HER AND HER MOM DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS. SHE ASKED IF THIS WAS A JOKE. SHE HAD TWO SONS. NO DAUGHTERS.



ON MY WAY OUT, THREE PEOPLE CALLED ME BY A PRIVATE NICKNAME I'D ONLY REVEALED TO KYRA.

THE CRAZY OLD MAN WHO BOSS ON OUR STOOP ASKED AFTER HORKLIN THE MINOTAUR.



DESPERATE, I WENT TO HER OFFICE BUT OF COURSE SHE WASN'T THERE.

I DEMANDED TO SEE HER DESK. SEE HER BOSS. SEE ANYTHING THAT WOULD PROVE ME WRONG.



HAD TO KNOW
HAD TO KNOW

HER DESK. I RAN PAST THE
RECEPTIONIST, HOPING TO
FIND CAMMY AT HER DESK.



INSTEAD, I FOUND TYLER

TYLER WAS SITTING
IN CAMMY'S DESK.
HE SAID THAT HE'S
BEEN OCCUPYING
THIS DESK FOR
TWO MONTHS.

AS SECURITY
DROGGED ME
FROM THE
BUILDING, TYLER
GOT OFF THE
TELEPHONE LONG
ENOUGH TO
SMILE, WINK, AND
THROUGH THE
ECHOING SILENCE
IN MY EAR I
HEARD HIM SAY:



"GOOD TO MEET
YOU, BUDDY."

"MY BEST TO EVERYONE
AT THE PALADIN'S KEEP."



CAMMY'S THINGS
WERE GONE BY
THE TIME I GOT
HOME.

AT FIRST I THOUGHT SOMEONE
MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THEM... BUT
THERE WASN'T EVEN ANY DUST,
ANY FILTH LEFT BEHIND. IT WAS
AS IF CAMMY HAD NEVER LIVED
HERE.

AS IF SHE HAD
NEVER EXISTED.

AFTER THAT, I DIDN'T FEEL
LIKE BEING ANDY VERY MUCH.



NO SECRETS. NO MONEY.
NO GIRLFRIEND. IT WAS
HAPPY LIVING.



TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T
FEEL LIKE SPENDING
TIME IN EVENGLADE'S
LIFE, EITHER.

THERE WAS SO
MUCH OF ANDY IN
IT THAT IT HARDLY
FELT ADVENTUROUS
AND INSPIRING.





MY LIVES HAD INTERTWINED, MY WORLDS COLLIDED.

AND I COULD FIND NO SOLACE, NO COMFORT IN EITHER.



HORDIN DRAGGED ME ON A FEW QUESTS, BUT MY HEART WASN'T IN IT.

ANDY'S HEART WASN'T IN IT.



EVERY MOVE ON THE CONTINENT HAUNTED MY WAKING HOURS, AND SO I BARELY SLEPT.

I COULDN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE, FOR FEAR OF WHAT I'D FIND.



AND I WOULDN'T LEAVE THE GAME, AFRAID OF MISSING THE ANSWERS I HOPED TO FIND.



MY JOB FIRED ME
THE FOLLOWING
MORNINGS

I SEARCHED FOR
A COROLLARY TO
EVENBLADE'S LIFE
BUT CAME UP
EMPTY



IN FACT, HOOKIN SUGGESTED WE REFL.
OUR FELLOWSHIP AND CHEER ME UP
WITH AN ADVENTURE.

AFRAID OF THE
CONSEQUENCES,
I SAID NO... BUT
TO BE
HONEST, I WAS
BORED WAITING
FOR ANSWERS
THAT WEREN'T
COMING.



AND, OF COURSE, NEVER WOULD.

IT WAS EVENBLADE THE PALADIN,
EVENBLADE THE STRONG, WHO
WENT INTO BATTLE...



...BUT IT WAS
ANDREW FRANCIS
DAGBERSTEIN THAT
DIED, STRUCK
FROM BEHIND ON
THE BALROSTH
PLAINS

THAT WAS TWELVE
HOURS AGO.

I'D DIED ON THE OGRE CONTINENT.
ONE OF MY LIVES HAD BEEN KILLED.

AND IT WAS A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE SOMETHING
CAME FOR THIS ONE, TOO.

I WAS ALWAYS HONEST ABOUT MY
WORLDS, MY TWO LIVES...AND
BECAUSE OF THAT, THEY COLLIDED.

BECAUSE OF THAT, GAMMY WAS
GONE. BECAUSE OF THAT I'M DEAD.

ANDY IS DEAD. AND NOW, I FINALLY
UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS TO LIVE.

I WAS BORN ANDREW FRANCIS
OGGSTEIN BUT I HAD A SECOND
NAME. AN EXTRA LIFE.



A close-up shot of a hand holding a multi-bladed knife. The hand is wearing a blue and white polka-dot glove. The knife has several blades, with the longest one pointing upwards and to the right. The blades are silver and sharp. The background is dark and blurry.

MY NAME IS EVENGLADE AND
ONCE I ROAMED THE OSEE
CONTINENT.


TWELVE HOURS AGO,
I LOST MY LIFE.

A full-page illustration of a man in a room. The man is shirtless, muscular, and has dark hair. He is wearing blue shorts and red socks. He is holding a multi-bladed knife in his right hand. He is standing in a room with a checkered floor and a window with blinds. The room is dimly lit, and there is a large, round object in the foreground. The man has a determined expression on his face.

SITTING HERE, ARMED AND
READY. ALL I CAN THINK
ABOUT IS HOW TO STOP IT
FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

HOW TO STOP IT FROM
HAPPENING FOR REAL.

END



YOU KNOW,
KIDDIES, I CAN'T GET
WHAT ANDY'S PROBLEM IS!
WHO SAYS REALITY IS ALL
IT'S CRACKED UP
TO BE?

BUT I CAN'T
RECOMMEND SOCIALIZING
IN THE OGRE CONTINENT -
THOSE OGRES CAN BE SUCH
BACK-STABBERS!

NOW, THE OLD
WITCH, SHE WASTES
ENDLESS HOURS ONLINE
IN THE WORLD OF
WARTCRAFT!

I'LL JUST KEEP AVOIDING
THOSE GHASTLY GHOUUNATICS
BY HANGING HERE - AT LEAST
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN IN THE
NEXT TOTALLY REAL ISSUE OF
TALES FROM THE CRYPT!
HAHAHAHAHAH!



Greetings, CRETINS! It's me again, the ol' Crypt-Keeper Welcome to another go-round of CRAZED CRITICISM and BOMBASTIC BRICKBATS regarding our previous IGNOMINIOUS issue!

But before opening up that can of INVERTEBRATES, let's review the REVOLTING results of your voting on TALES FROM THE CRYPT #3. It was yet another CHILLINGLY CLOSE race, but somehow "A MURDERIN' IDOL" by MANIACAL Mort Todd and SHUDDERIN' Steve Mannion managed to eke out a victory as the issue's favorite SCARE-TALE over "SLABBED" by Stefan Petruska and Don Hudson.

If you somehow missed our TERRIFYING third issue, the EVIL GENIUSES over at Paperbacks have already collected it and other FEAR-FABLES into paperback and hardcover collections entitled TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2 "Can You Fear Me Now?" It, along with TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1 "Ghosts Gone Wild" should be on shelves of better BOOKSTORES now.

Subject: Tales From The Crypt #2

I have only caught up with you on the second issue and I can't tell you how delighted I am that you are back for a new run! Ever since I learned about EC comics a few years back I have been intrigued in reading some of those classic creepy comics, and it was a pity that Bill Gaines persistently refused to resurrect them. I am glad that somebody has finally done so.

I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Eses' artwork in "The Garden". I thought it gave the feel that the story was taking place in some bizarre video game. [SPOILER WARNING: Don't read the rest of this email if you haven't already read TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2] I liked the poetic justice that the suicide bomber committed his crime in order to get into paradise. He

got his wish, but then found out it was really hell in paradise clothing!

It was an ingenious plot twist in "The Tenant" whereby the cheapskate landlord is forced to make improvements without breaking the conditions of his sentence that stipulate he must not do so: legally, the graveyard was not his property, so it was not breaking conditions to make improvements to the graveyard. Being forced to make these improvements was what really improved the landlord, but that did not save him from serving a sentence within a sentence.

I shall be looking forward to future issues.

Briony Coote
New Zealand

Thanks, Briony! "The Tenant" had a moral we can all appreciate -- that a tidy tomb is a happy tomb!

Subject: Hope and Fear for the Crypt series

Hi, I've been a longstanding EC fan-addict since I was 12 (now 33). When at a comicon I bought an original issue because the cover looked interesting - this was before the HBO series! I fell in love right away.

Yesterday I found your new series on the shelf at the comic shop. I felt an immediate thrill (Wow! New TALES FROM THE CRYPT stories!) and at the same time fear (Uh-oh, is this gonna be any good? Will it do justice to the original?)

After reading the first paperback (and I am about to start on issue 3 after I finish this email), my verdict was

somewhere in the middle. I so much want this to be the best comic it can be, because I love comics and I love the EC horrors especially. You have so much potential here! The only story I found up to par was "The Tenant" and judging by your letters in issue 3, that is the consensus. The first story in the book, "Body of Work" had me feeling especially frustrated. Such a good start, a great premise...then an ending that was just wasted! Why didn't you SHOW the faces of the corpses and their resemblance to the portraits? AND YOU MISSED AN OBVIOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR A GREAT GAG: The corpses should have taken the paintings back to the graveyard and hung them in the mausoleum! They could have given the artist (Jack Kroll) a post-mortem exhibit! And you know how the value of art goes up after an artist dies! His paintings would have sold out - no coffin should be without one!

I shall continue buying your "TALES" for a while at least, always optimistic to catch some of the magic.

Yakov Levi

Hey, Yakov as "a longstanding EC fan-addict" of 21 years, you have our permission to sit down already! But what makes you think we'd ever go for the "OBVIOUS" gag?

Subject: Crypt-Keeper's Corner!!!!

Hey, what's up, y'all? We wanted to give your team a big thumbs up for having the guts to bring TALES FROM THE CRYPT back. What about THE VAULT OF HORROR, THE CRYPT OF TERROR, THE HAUNT OF FEAR? Man, that would be hot as hell if you published those as well. I'd buy 'em, actually any EC comic would be exciting, CRIME SUSPENSE, SHOCK SUSPENSE, etc. Now, my nephew and I are real excited about these comics, and hope you continue strong. My suggestion is if your going to have somewhat weak stories, and only 2 stories per mag you are going to have to make up for it in the quality of paper stock and front cover artwork. The artwork for issue 2 is absolutely awesome, I bought like 6 of that issue. Now, in regards to the paper stock - man, you guys are cheap. I have to buy at least 2 of each issue because just reading your mag for a couple of minutes my fingerprints get etched into the ink and ruin the comic. The ink smears. Hey, when are you guys coming out with a hologram, foil, multi-colored variant and limited edition covers. Variant covers would be great, my nephew and I would buy all of em!!!!

Keep Up The Good Work !!!

Master Tillman Pink III
Manuel Mendoza
Los Angeles, California

Flattery will get you nowhere, Master Tillman and Manuel. TALES FROM THE CRYPT is the same comic as THE CRYPT OF TERROR, while we're waiting to hear what other EC Fan-addicts think about revising those other TERROR-TITLES. If you like STIFF covers, why not simply buy our HARDCOVER editions? As for limited edition covers, starting with this very issue we have two different comicbook covers - one with a US price and the other with a Canadian price! I expect you and your nephew to keep your word and buy 'em both - even if it means a trip up North! As for HORRORgrams, SPOILED, and MUTILATED limited edition covers, I suspect there's no cheap sales gimmick those PINHEADS at Papercutz won't try!

Subject: new TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Hey, I heard about you on NPR. Any plans for the HAUNT or VAULT? I'll tell everyone I know. I'm sending the link to your site (www.papercutz.com) to my distribution list. Hope you can get some more airtime, like the bit I heard today on NPR. I'm a big CRYPT fan (comics, movies, and TV), have the Russ Cochran hardbound collections, am constantly checking Ebay for more and this was the first I had heard of your product.

Good luck, Taking subscriptions yet?

Bill Shaw

NPR? Around here that means NAUSEATING PULSATING REMAINS! You probably mean the ultra-short feature Nina GREGORY produced on Halloween for Morning Edition on National Public Radio, which featured my eldest editor, Jim Salicrup.

As for subCRYPTions, just send us a check or money order, in US funds only, for \$24.00 for a one-year, six-issue subscription to TALES FROM THE CRYPT. Subscriptions begin with the next issue published after we receive your order.

Thus concludes another raucous intellectual DISSECTION regarding the greatest horror comicbook series ever! Don't miss next issue featuring the GROSS-EST story yet - "Ignoble Rot" by Fred Van Lente and Steve Mannion, as well as "Queen of the Vampires" by Marc Bilgrey and Mr. Esen.

Keep those emails and letters coming! Tell us what you thought of this freaky, fun-offending fourth issue. Send your letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your savage commentaries or rage-filled reversals to our illiterate editor at: salicrup@papercutz.com.

E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!

(But we're coming out with these collections anyway!)



COLLECTING STORIES BY BILGREY, MR.EXES, VOLLMAR, SMITH 3,
KLEID, MANNION, TODD, MCGREGOR, MURASE, ROMBERGER,
PETRUCHA, and HUDSON!

ON SALE NOW AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE!



DDP PRESENTS
ANOTHER QUALITY SCAN BY
THE GRUMP

YOU READ IT. NOW BUY IT YOU DIRTY LEECH!

PAPERCUTZ

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE FATALIST
FIFTH ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN,
REED CRANDALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE
EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY
KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL
WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRES"

MARK BILGREY

WRITER

MR. EXES

ARTIST

MARK LERER

LETTERER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

"KID TESTED, MOTHER APPROVED"

JARED GNIEWEK

WRITER

JAMES ROMBERGER

ARTIST

MARGUERITE VAN COOK

COLOR

MARK LERER

LETTERER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SALICRUP

WRITER

RICK PARKER

ARTIST/TITLE

LETTERER/COLOR

MARK LERER

LETTERER

JAMES ROMBERGER

COVER ARTIST

JOHN MCCARTHY

PRODUCTION

TERRY NANTIER



THE PUBLISHER

JIM SALICRUP



THE OLD EDITOR

Continued by Rick Parker

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TERROR



HARDCORE
NO. 5
ALL-NEW!



TALES FROM THE CRYPT

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH




THE VAULT-KEEPER





HEY, OLD MITCH, HOW
LONG IS THE CRYPT-KEEPER
GOING TO KEEP READING
HIS FAN MAIL?

OH, LET HIM BE.
VAULT-KEEPER!



IT KEEPS HIM FROM TELLING
THOSE INSUFFERABLE YARNS
OF HIS! NOW IF HE WERE
AS GOOD AS MY FAVORITE
HORROR WRITER, VICTORIA
PRICE, I WOULDN'T MIND!
TAKE FOR EXAMPLE, THIS
TALE OF GREED AND
BETRAYAL ENTITLED...

QUEEN OF THE

VAMPIRES



WHICH BRINGS US TO THE DORM OF TWO ROOMMATES, SALLY "SYBIL" MILLS AND TINA "TANTH" BENSON, WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE SUBJECT.











FINALLY...

I'M SO EXCITED.
TOMORROW IS
THE BIG DAY!

LIKE I COULD FORGET
ABOUT THAT? C'MON, LET'S
GO TO OUR SPECIAL PLACE
AND CELEBRATE!

I'M KIND OF TIRED. I
THOUGHT I'D MAKE IT
AN EARLY NIGHT.

TALES
FROM THE
CRYPT


BUT WE HAVE
TO GO! I, UH,
MEAN, IT'S OUR
RITUAL.

OH, IT'LL BE VERY QUICK
I GUARANTEE IT.

OH, YOU'RE
SO SWEET. ALL
RIGHT, BUT LET'S
MAKE IT QUICK
TONIGHT.









ALAS, POOR TANTH, YOU
WERE ALWAYS TOO TRUSTING.
I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL
PANGS OF SYMPATHY
FOR YOU.

BUT THEY
PASSED LIKE
A BUST OF
SUMMER
WIND.



SINCE, DEAR FRIEND, NO ONE
HAS BEEN BURIED IN THIS
OLD CEMETERY SINCE THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR, IT
IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY
THAT YOU WILL BE
NOTICED.



WELL, THAT'S IT, TANTH, DEAR.
SORRY I CAN'T PROVIDE YOU
WITH A SUITABLE GRAVESTONE.
BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDER-
STAND THE DELICATENESS
OF THE SITUATION.





AND NOW TO SEEK OUT
THE ROYAL RESIDENCE OF MY
QUEEN. CERTAINLY, HER REGAL
MANSION IS NOT AMONG THE
HUMBLE DWELLINGS OF
COMMONERS



THIS DOCUMENT, HAND DRAWN, NO DOUBT, BY
THE PALACE CARTOGRAPHER, REVEALS THAT I AM
CORRECT IN MY ASSUMPTION. THOUGH, HER
MAJESTY'S STately HOME IS NOT FAR. IT
SEEMS, PERHAPS SHE WISHES NOT TO STRAY
TOO GREAT A DISTANCE FROM HER
SUBJECTS.



MY HEART IS ALL AFLUTTER! YONDER
IS THE CASTLE OF SHE WHOM I HAVE
PLEGGED MY ETERNAL ALLEGIANCE
TO! AND WILL YOU LOOK AT THE
SIZE OF IT! YOU COULD FIT MY
WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD IN THERE
AND STILL HAVE ROOM FOR THE
MALL AND TWO PARKING
LOTS!



**DUM DUM TA DUM
TA TA DUM TA
DUM DUM DUM!**



A LITTLE LATER...

MISS PRICE
WILL SEE YOU
NOW, IN THE
LIBRARY.

LEP! THIS
IS IT! MY QUEEN
AWAITS!







THIS IS
WHERE I KEEP
MY AMPHIBIANS.

CUTE
FROGS.

EACH ONE
HAS ENOUGH POISON
IN THEM TO KILL ONE
HUNDRED PEOPLE. IT'S
WHAT INDIGENOUS
TRIBES USE ON
THEIR BLOWGUN
DARTS.

I SO HOPE
YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS
SLIMPSE INTO SOME OF MY
DISTRACTIONS. FEEL FREE TO
ASK ME ANYTHING AT ALL.
TONIGHT I'M HERE
FOR YOU.

WH, I WAS
CURIOUS. HOW DID
YOU COME UP WITH
THE CHARACTER
OF THE VAMPIRE
DUBOIS?

AS IT HAPPENS,
THE INSPIRATION
FOR DUBOIS CAME
FROM WHAT'S IN THIS
ROOM. PLEASE,
STEP INSIDE.





YOU WERE CHOSEN AS THE CONTEST WINNER BECAUSE, AFTER A BACKGROUND CHECK, IT WAS DETERMINED YOU HAVE NO LIVING RELATIVES.

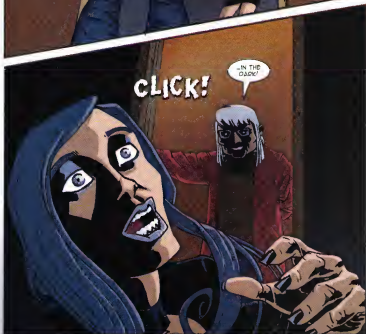
BUT, BUT I'M NOT...




TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, WHAT INSPIRED MY CHARACTER DUBOIS...



...IS LIVING ON THE CEILING.





I PROMISED MY
VAMPIRE BATS A SPECIAL
MEAL TO CELEBRATE THE
LAUNCHING OF MY NEW BOOK.
IT'S A TREAT I GIVE THEM
ONCE A YEAR. IT SEEMS
TO BRING ME LUCK.

AND I'VE BEEN
TOO BUSY TO FEED
THEM LATELY, AND
THEY'RE OH, SO
HUNGRY.

MY, MY, ALL
THAT SCREAMING.
I DO BELIEVE I'M GET-
TING ANOTHER IDEA FOR
A NEW BOOK. I SO
LOVE THE CREATIVE
PROCESS. DON'T
YOU?

END



WHAT A
BATTY ENDING!

>GROAN<

YES, SYBIL PAID
QUITE A PRICE TO MEET
MRS. PRICE! JUST AS YOU'RE
PAYING THE PRICE OF EATING
TOO MANY CHOCOLATE
STUFFED FRUITY GRAIN
BALLS!

IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT KEEPS
THE OLD VAULT-
KEEPER VAULTING
ABOUT!

JUST CHECK
OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO
LITTLE JIMMY WHEN HE
SKIPS BREAKFAST, IN
THIS SHOCKER I
CALL...

Kid TESTED
MOTHER
APPROVED!

WOW! AN
"A" ON YOUR
SPELLING
TEST...

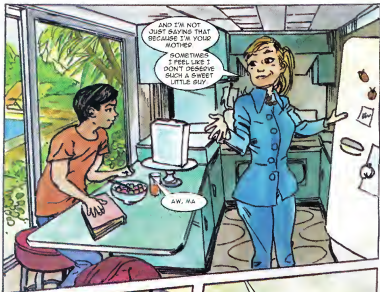
...HITTING A
HOME RUN IN
GYM CLASS...

...LANDING
THE LEAD IN THE
SCHOOL PLAY...

...AND A BLUE
DISSON AT THE
SCIENCE FAIR!



I HATE TO SAY IT,
BUT YOU MIGHT BE
THE **GREATEST** KID
IN THE WORLD!





BUT THEY'VE GOT
THE FRUITEST CHOCOLATE
TASTE IN THE LAND. IT'S GOT
THAT WILD K-TREME FLAVOR
BLAST THAT'S OUT
OF THIS WORLD!

IT'S THE MOST
FRANTICALLY
SUGAR BOMBED
SWEETNESS EX-
PLOSION EVER!

NO DICE,
MA. I CAN'T EAT
'EM DRY



YOU ATE THEM
DRY ALL THE TIME WHEN
YOU WERE LITTLE. WHY, YOU'VE
EATEN CHOCOLATE-STUFFED
FRUITY SOJIN BALLS EVERY
DAY OF YOUR LIFE.

WELL, SINCE
YOU'VE HAD
TEETH.

MOM, I'LL
BE OKAY. I DON'T
NEED TO EAT THEM
EVERY DAY.



YES, YES,
YOU DO!

WHY ASEN'T YOU
BOMBS CRAZY WITH
THE CHOCORIFIC
FRUIT SPASHES?

JUMMY,
YOU NEED A
WELL-BALANCED
BREAKFAST WITH
THE SWEETNESS YOU
CRAVE, MELDED WITH
THE VITAMINS, NUTRI-
ENTS, AND MINERALS
YOU NEED FOR
STRONG BONES,
A WINNING SMILE
AND PEP AND
AND VIGOR!

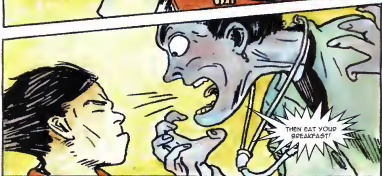
VIGOR--
YOU NEED
VIGOR!!

BYE, MOM.
SEE YOU AFTER
SCHOOL.



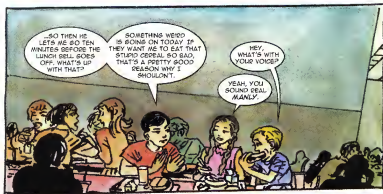




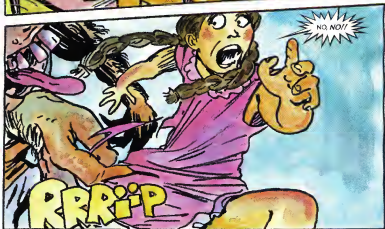












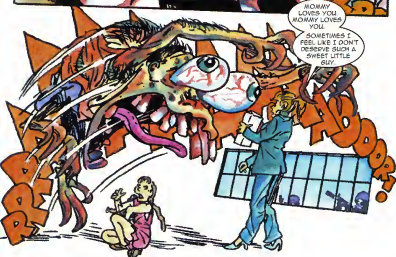














EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE OKAY,
BABY.

YOU ARE THE
BEST KID IN THE
WORLD.

EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE GREAT.

YOU'RE GOING
TO EAT A NUTRITIOUS
BREAKFAST EVERY
DAY.

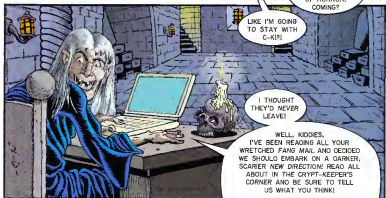
FROM
NOW ON
I PROMISE
NO MORE
MISTAKES.

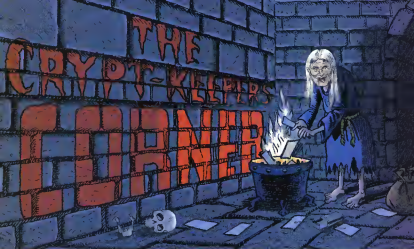
EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE JUST
LIKE IT WAS BEFORE.
I PROMISE.





END





Hdee-ho, horror-fans! It's me again, the original ol' Crypt-Keeper. Welcome to more CONDESCENDING CRITICISM, mixed in with a dollop of MINDLESS PRAISE, for our previous inconsistent issues. Let's bear it for the FEARLESS FANS willing to brave the BITING WIT and CUTTING COMEBACKS for which this politically incorrect letters column is becoming INFAMOUS!

Now, kiddies, this is where I'd normally reveal the results of your votes on TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4, but the SHOCKING TRUTH is, at presstime we still haven't received any! So, it's still up in the air what you think about last issue's TERROR TALES – "CRYSTAL CLEAR" by Dan McGregor and James Romberger and "Extra Life" by Neil Kleid and Chris North. For you ROTTING READERS living in the United States, this is an election year, so it's your DUTY to VOTE! We'll give you one more chance, but when TALES FROM THE CRYPT #6 hits the stands, the voting on #4 will be OFFICIALLY OVER!

If you somehow missed our FRIGHTENING fourth issue, the PENNY-PINCHERS over at Papercuts have already collected "CRYSTAL CLEAR" and other FEAR-FABLES into paperback and hardcover collections entitled TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2 "CAN YOU FEAR ME NOW?" You'll have to wait for the third CRYPT collection, entitled "Zombulicious" for "Extra Life" to be collected, though! But TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2, along with TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1 "Ghouls Gone Wild" should be on shelves of better BOOKstores now.

Okay, just wanted to say how much I like the "TALES FROM THE CRYPT" comics. Okay, I like the stories, although the art needs to look more like the old comics from the fifties, 'cause I liked the way it looked back then. I really didn't read the old comics, I only saw that art on the first season DVD. But keep up the good work on the comics; also maybe stay with the tradition of those comics.

Your Fan,
Ethan

Let us know what you think of our most recent issues, Ethan. Has the artwork taken a turn for the WORSE or are you DIGGIN' the NEW DIRECTION newcomer North, rotten ol' Romberger, and even the ever-popular Mr. Eses have taken!

Subject: I love Tales from the Crypt!!!!

Hi, you deathheads! I love the comic. I was reading issue #3 and I was wondering what you got the idea for a painting of a zombie Mona Lisa? Can't wait for the next issue! Can I order a copy of issue #1 from you?

Sean Clagg
Myrtle Beach, SC

Sorry, Sean, but we're SOLD OUT of TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1. You can order the paperback or hardcover collections that feature both stories from #1. And you'll have to read "A BODY OF WORK" by Marc Bilgrey and Mr. Eses to learn the SECRET behind ZOMBIE MONA!

Dear Crypt Keeper,

I thoroughly enjoyed the third issue. I feel I am in the minority, but in the end "A Murderin' Idol" eventually came out as my favorite. "And may I make a suggestion? Do something about that hair!" Hce, hee! How many demons do you see making suggestions? I have a feeling, though, that it will be beaten by "Slabbed!" because everybody loves it when comics make stories about comics. I appreciate the insight as to how the comics industry feels about this latest option of slapping comics to preserve them, but make them completely unreadable. The blurb about #4 looks promising. Looking forward to #4.

Briony Coote,

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Good to hear from you again, Briony! But it looks like it takes a while for our mad-mag to make its way to New Zealand, which is causing you to miss out on the voting. But take heart, (or take any organ of your choice!) "A MURDERIN' IDOL" did take top honors over "SLABBED!"

Dear Crypt Keeper,

It looks like you are getting revenge on Dr. Wertham and his "Seduction of the Innocent" which killed off the original title. You had a visitor called Wertham in #2 and your comment on "Slabbed": "It's juvenile delinquents such as Derrick that give comics a really bad name!" was unmistakable. Are you going to go the whole hog and have a story that makes a real dig at the old reactionary? If not, why don't you think about it?

Briony Coote

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Back again, Briony! In CRYPT #2, I may have exclaimed "What the Wertham -!" in a moment of TERROR, but rest assured (and in peace) that no visitor of that name has ever stepped foot in THE CRYPT OF TERROR!

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

You were asking readers if the HAUNT OF FEAR and VAULT OF HORROR should be revived as well. Well, I reckon the reason the Vault-Keeper and Old Witch keep goofing off is because they don't have a comic of their own. Therefore I think reviving those titles will be a good idea - if you feel the readership is strong enough.

Briony Coote

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

You again? Well, we'll need far more than one reader in Lower Hutt, New Zealand before we can even think about reviving HAUNT OF FEAR and VAULT OF HORROR!

Dear Sir,

I am an avid collector of most comics. I do own a complete collection of EC Comics (originals), including a Gaines file copy of WAR AGAINST CRIME #10 9.8. Your attempt at a revival of EC is a great challenge. To me, the ECs were and still are the best books ever to be published. Most of those artists are now well-known and well-collected (very valuable in most cases). Williamson, Wood, Davis, Ghastly Angels, etc. What I think needs to be done to be successful is "take" from the original format, rather than take an "Archie" approach to your revival. Attempt to do what the original format brought to the media - excellent art and stories. Then with the right formula, you can bring the whole sci-fi line back and horror. I have a vast knowledge of this business (I own BATMAN #1, SUPERMAN #1, AMAZING FANTASY #15, etc.) and lots of EC original art. Try to move toward the original format. Hey, Al Williamson is still out there, so is Al Feldstein. I would like you to be very successful, but as of now your books are too tame. Granted, there are no Frazetta or Woods out there, but with the right approach you can be very successful.

Good luck.

Robert Mettels

Norwalk, CT

But, Bob, do you have a copy of PURE EVIL #1? So much for this issue's DIVISIVE DISCOURSE! Be here next issue for the story so SHOCKING we can't even reveal the title, as well as "Graveyard Shift at the Twilight Garden" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3. "Ignoble Row" by Fred Van Lente and Steve Mannion, originally scheduled for this issue, has been rescheduled to appear in CRYPT #7.

Keep those emails and letters coming! Tell us what you thought of our NEW DIRECTION, which is FORWARD TO THE PAST! Send your letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your RABID REVIEWS to our elderly editor at: saliscrup@papercutz.com.

E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!

(But we're coming out with these collections anyway!)



COLLECTING STORIES BY BILGREY, MR.EXES, VOLLMAR, SMITH 3,
KLEID, MANNION, TODD, MCGREGOR, MURASE, ROMBERGER,
PETRUCHA, and HUDSON!

ON SALE NOW AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE!



PAPER CUT

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE SUPER-SCARY
SCREAM-INDUCING SIXTH ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN,
REED CRANOALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE
EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY
KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL
WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"JUMPING THE SHARK"

ARIE KAPLAN

WRITER

MR. EXES

ARTIST

MARK LERER

LETTERER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

GHOULONATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SALICRUP

WRITER

RICK PARKER

ARTIST/TITLE

LETTERER/COLOR

MARK LERER

LETTERER

STEVE MANNON

COVER ARTIST

JOHN MCCARTHY

PRODUCTION

"A RIPPING GOOD TIME"

JOE R. LANSDALE &

JOHN L. LANSOALE

WRITERS

JAMES ROMBERGER

ARTIST

MARGUERITE VAN COOK

COLOR

MARK LERER

LETTERER

TERRY HANTIER



THE PUBLISHER

JIM SALICRUP



THE OLD EDITOR

Illustrations by Bob Frierkin

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Director: Gary Shenton, Sales Manager: Martha Longley, 10000 Ridge Road, #100, New York, NY 10001.

TERROR



NO. 6
ALL-NEW!



TALES FROM THE CRYPT

IN THIS ISSUE:

AN ALL-NEW STORY BY

**JOE R. LANSDALE &
JOHN L. LANSDALE**

TEXAS' TOP TERROR WRITERS!

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



THE CRYPT OF TERROR





WELCOME BACK TO
"JUMPING THE SHARK!"
WHEN WE LAST LEFT YOU
CAITLIN WAS ABOUT TO
EAT THIS JAR OF
MAGGOTS.

EAT THE MAGGOTS!
EAT THE MAGGOTS!
EAT THE MAGGOTS!



SHE DID
IT!

GULP!

EEEEWWWW!



THE MAN WITH THE DARK SHADOWS IS
PRODUCER LAZLO SLOAN. "JUMPING
THE SHARK" IS HIS BABY.

PHIL, YOU IDIOT! THE NEXT
TIME YOU'RE THIS LATE
WITH MY COFFEE,
YOU'RE FIRED!!

SORRY,
MR. SLOAN.
SIR!



THE MAN WALKING AWAY... WELL, THAT'S ME.
I'M PHIL RAFFERTY, LAZLO'S ASSISTANT.

SOME DAY
THAT STUPID OLD
GOOT'S GOING
TO GET HIS!







AND SO...



HEY PHIL, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS IDEA FOR A GAME SHOW?

IT'S CALLED "MILLIONAIRE HORO" WHICH OF THESE FIVE HOMELESS MEN IS ACTUALLY THE HEIR TO A REAL ESTATE FORTUNE? WOULD YOU MARRY HIM JUST TO FIND OUT? IT'LL BE THE BIGGEST THING SINCE--















YOU'RE NOT LISTENING! WHAT IF YOU TOOK A COUPLE THAT WAS MADLY IN LOVE AND HAD THEM LIVE FOR SIX MONTHS IN A HOUSE... WHERE IT'S RAINING INDOORS 24/7! HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE THEM TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS?



I KNOW WHAT THIS IS. THIS IS SOME KINDA PRACTICAL JOKE, ISN'T IT? WELL, THAT'S A LOUSY LAZLO SLOAN MASK. DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HIM! NOW TAKE IT OFF!













BUT IT WASN'T OKAY
FROM THEN ON, I WAS A
JANGLY BAG OF NERVES.



ALWAYS ON EDGE...

SO THE CONTESTANT STICKS
HIS HEAD IN HERE--WHERE
THE WATERMELON IS--
AND THEN...



FOREVER EXPECTING
TO SEE HIM PEERING
OUT BEHIND EVERY
CORNER

ASHH!

NEVER SEEN ANYONE
GET SO FREAKED OUT
BY A WATERMELON
BEFORE!

SLICE!



IF MY DAYS WERE
ANXIETY-RIDDEN, MY
NIGHTS WERE WORSE.



WAS I GOING MAD?









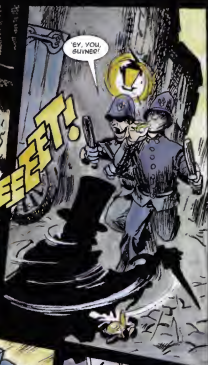




WONDER
WHOSE POCKET
SHE PICKED FOR
THAT WATCH

WHAT ARE ALL
THESE KNOBS
ON THE SIDE?











HEY, BOB

GOT ANYTHING
INTERESTING FOR
ME, HARRY?



NEED A
WATCH?

GOT FOUR

BUT I
GET NONE
OF THEM ARE
VICTORIAN

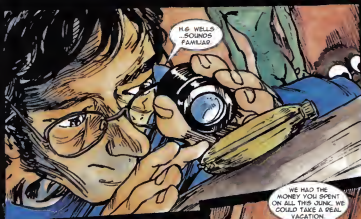


VICTORIAN?

THAT'S RIGHT, AND
IT LOOKS TO HAVE A
BUNCH OF DOO-HICKIES
ON IT. NEVER SEEN ONE
QUITE LIKE IT.



YOU'VE
GOT A
SILE

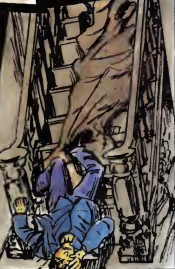






















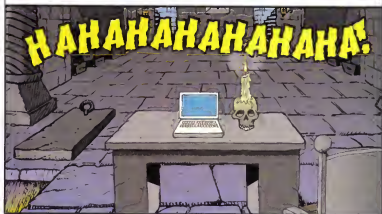


IT'S NOT LIKE
I CAN BRING HIM
BACK...AND I HAVE
THAT CHARITY
PROGRAM.











Whassup, fright-fans? It's the Crypt-Keeper keepin' it surreal in his CRYPT-CRIB! Ready for another round of HORRENDOUS REVIEWS and PAINFUL PRAISE? Seems like some of you have noticed that we're actually LISTENING and RESPONDING to you -- our CREEPY CRITICS! For an EERIE EXAMPLE, the fact that YOU voted "Queen of the Vampires," by Marc (with a "C") Bilgrey and Mr. Exes, your favorite story from TALES FROM THE CRYPT #5 says that you all enjoyed the new DARKER art style.

Don't forget to vote for you FAVE story in this issue, and we'll reveal the winner in our very NEXT ISSUE! No, never-ending camPAINS here, boys and GHOULS! And the winner will be decided by YOU, not some SUPER-DELICATE-TYPES!

For those of you in FLORIDA still waiting for the results on CRYPT #4 poll, believe it or not, it was a TIE between "Crystal Clear" by Don McGregor and James Romberger and "Extra Life" by Neil Kleid and Chris North. At least that's what our official vote-counter "Hangin'" Chad tells us!

If you MISERABLE MISCREANTS missed any of our ROTTING recent issues, check out the paperback and hardcover collections now on sale. The third VENOMOUS VOLUME, entitled "TALES FROM THE CRYPT #3: ZOMBIELICIOUS" also features "Graveyard Shift at the Twilight Gardens" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3, an EXCLUSIVE all-new tale, never before seen anywhere!

That takes care of OLD BUSINESS, let's see what you DEAD HEADS sent us this time...

HEY TERROR-LOVERS!!!!!!!

Just want to say that TALES FROM THE CRYPT is the best comic EVER! I never read the old comics and I'm not allowed to watch the TV show. I loved the first issue, my favorite story was "Body of Work." In the second issue I loved "The Tenant" and the "Garden." The third issue was great. I didn't like the fourth issue that much.

I have one complaint though, I like the artwork but it belongs in a different comic. If the comic is meant to be scary then the art should be scary.

I have some titles for future issues: "DEATH HOUSE," "THE MONSTER FROM THE SWAMP," "THE ATTIC," and "THEATER OF THE DAMNED."

You ghouls ROCK!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Colby "Crypt-lover" Nelson-Betz

You ROCK, Colley!!!!!! And let us know what you think of the SCARY art in this issue. If it were any SCARIER our ancient editor would have a coronary!!!!

Subject: TALES FROM THE CRYPT, The Return

Hello Crypt Dwellers,

First, let me say that I was shocked when I saw TALES FROM THE CRYPT was back. I am

too young for the comics, but was an avid fan of the TV series growing up. So once I saw the first issue in stores, I bought it. I was very excited as I opened the book and began to read and I have to say after the first story I was hooked. I love the art style that is being used. I know many people have complained that they would like to see something more modern maybe along the lines of Ben Templesmith, but I feel the art fits the stories. The stories are very good as well. I especially liked the "Extra Life" (issue #4) story. You brought a part of modern pop culture in and I like that. I have bought every issue thus far and look forward to new issues.

Praise aside, issue #5 gave us the "Kid Tested, Mother Approved" story. At first read I thought the art was a bit rough; but after a second read I stay with my stance that the art fits the story. Just a bit rough for my taste.

In short, great work. Keep up the pace. Love the evolution of the art style. Thank you for reviving such an entertaining comic.

Jesse Rosenbaum
Bridgewater, NJ

Hey, they weren't called EC for nothing!

Dear sir,

When I first learned that TALES FROM THE CRYPT was coming back from the dead, I was over the moon with joy! Now, after I reading no. 3, I wish it stayed that way. I have read the stories from the old comics in the reprints and they're great, but what you have done with TALES FROM THE CRYPT this new run is, bad. I know that you're making them for kids, but the stories you are doing are watered down and lame! I'm not saying that you should stop making TALES FROM THE CRYPT. No, far from it! And marketing to kids is okay. We need comics for kids. Kids today are very smart, and know what makes a good story, but don't dumb down yours for them.

Kev
Scotland

We hear you. Kev! Tell us what you think our darker, scarier NEW (OLD) DIRECTION!

Subject: My first TALES FROM THE CRYPT feedback

What's up? Ever since I looked at and subsequently picked up the first issue, I've been hooked on Tales From The Crypt. I've only seen samples of the original EC run, but I wouldn't listen to the critics who say things about the art anyway. The way I see it, the art in this comic series has evolved to cater to audiences of 2008. And the Crypt-Keeper has never looked better (deader?).

So far, your stories have brushed the surface of pop culture (cell phones, toy/comic collecting, goths, American Idol), and you've even done a story reflecting the dangerous times post 9/11 (the suicide bomber one). I can only imagine where your inspiration for such stories lie.

Anyway, keep up the great work, and let's hope no soccer moms try to "pull a Wertham" on you.

Peter Fay
Brooklyn, NY

We hate to tell you this, Peter, but our biggest source for BLOOD-CURLING story ideas are NEWSPAPERS! We figured since no one under the age of fifty reads those antiquated journals of jaw-dropping TERROR anymore that we hit the jackpot! Or in other words, when it comes to all-out SCARY, nothing beats REALITY!

Keep those emails and letters coming - it makes the other GhouLunaics over GREENER with envy! Send letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your comments to the Old Editor at:
salcirup@papercutz.com

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PAPERCUTZ,

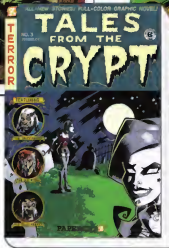
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checks payable to NBM.



E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!

(BUT WE'RE COMING OUT WITH
THESE COLLECTIONS ANYWAY!)



COLLECTING STORIES BY BILGREY, MR.EXES, GNIWEK, HUDSON, KLEID,
MANNION, MCGREGOR, MURASE, NOETH, PETRUCHA, ROMBERGER,
SMITH 3, TODD, and VOLLMAR!

ON SALE NOW AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE!

WildBlueZero



PAPERCUT^Z

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE SHAMELESSLY-STRUGGLING-TO-WIN-FAN-SUPPORT SEVENTH ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES.



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN, REED CRANDALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANOO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"IGNOBLE ROT"

FRED VAN LENTE
WRITER

MORT TODO
ARTIST

MORT TODO
LETTERER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

"MOONLIGHT SONATA"

JOE R. LANSOALE &
JOHN L. LANSOALE
WRITERS

CHRIS NOETH
ARTIST

MARK LERER
LETTERER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SALICRUP
WRITER

RICK PARKER
ARTIST/TITLE LETTERER/COLOR

MARK LERER
LETTERER

TERRY NANTIER



THE PUBLISHER

STEVE MANNION
COVER ARTIST

MIKHAELA REID & MASHEKA WOOD
PRODUCTION

MICHAEL PETRANEK
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JIM SALICRUP



THE OLD EDITOR

Caricatures by Rick Parker.

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TERROR



NO. 7
ALL-NEW!

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER

IN THIS ISSUE:
AN ALL-NEW STORY BY
**JOE R. LANSDALE &
JOHN L. LANSDALE**
TEXAS' TOP TERROR WRITERS!



\$3.95us

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0 71896 45306 5

WELCOME, KIDDES!
IT'S YOUR OL' PAL THE
CRYPT-KEEPER GETTING READY
TO FILM A COUPLE OF VIDEOS
FOR YOU FOOMB. THE
SCARIEST WEBSITE
OF ALL!

MY FIRST FRIGHTFUL FEATURE, STARS A LOU
NAMED LOUIS, WHO COULD'VE BEEN A REAL HOLLYWOOD
MOVIE STAR — THAT IS BEFORE SOMETHING SET IN
THAT I LIKE TO CALL...

IGNOBLE ROOT

THE FRENCH QUARTER
AT NIGHT.

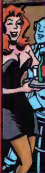
YOUR FAVORITE HUNTING
GROUND, ISN'T IT, LOUIS?

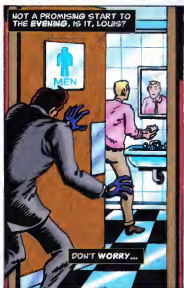
AND YOU'RE IN
DESPERATE
NEED OF PREY.

THE TRAVELER'S CHECKS YOU
STOLE FROM THE PURSE OF
YOUR LAST MARK ARE JUST
ABOUT GONE, SO IT'S HIGH
TIME TO FIND SOME OTHER
DRUNK, LONELY TOURIST...

...ANY WOMAN, REALLY,
WITH MORE MONEY THAN
SELF-ESTEEM...

RAJUN
BAR &
RESTAURANT







...IT GETS WORSE.

AT FIRST YOU
WONDER WHAT
THESE SLACK-
JAWED OUT-OF-
TOWNERS' PROBLEM IS...

THEN...

...YOU SEE IT FOR
YOURSELF.

GASP!

CHOKES!



WHAT YOU
SEE IS BAD
ENOUGH...

...BUT
IT'S WHAT
YOU **DON'T**
SEE THAT
TERRIFIES
YOU!

YOU DON'T
SEE FOG ON
THE MIRROR
FROM YOUR
BREATH! FOR
NO MATTER
HOW HARD
YOU STRAIN
YOUR
LUNGS...



...YOU CANNOT
BREATHE!

NOR IS THERE A
PULSE BENEATH
YOUR WRIST---

---AND THE SKIN IS
COLD AND GLAMMY
TO THE TOUCH---
LIKE RUBBER LEFT
OUTSIDE OVERNIGHT!

THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE
EXPLANATION, NO MATTER
HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT SEEMS:

I- I'M...

I'M
DEAD!!!



BUT--- SOMEHOW,
SOME WAY---
YOU'RE STILL
MOVING AROUND---

---AND SO THE NAME
COMES TO YOU
INSTANTLY, BURNING
AN INDELIBLE IMPRINT
INTO YOUR BRAIN:

THAT HIDEOUS OLD WITCH-WOMAN.
YOU KNOW SHE--- AND ONLY SHE---
MUST BE RESPONSIBLE.

HER MISTAKE, IF SHE
TRIED TO KILL YOU
FROM AFAR, FOR NOT
FINISHING THE JOB!

BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO DRIVE
RIGHT OUT TO HER PATHETIC
SWAMP TRAILER PARK AND BEAT
HER INTO REVERSING WHATEVER
HEX SHE'S---

Q #@#!

DEDE.

YOU ASSUME IT'S PART OF HER
CURSE THAT YOU'VE BECOME SO
CLUMSY ALL OF A SUDDEN---
THAT YOUR MUSCLES DON'T WANT
TO DO WHAT YOU TELL THEM TO.

YOU'RE NO CORONER, OF COURSE. NOR DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU DIED WHILE NAPPING IN YOUR FLOPHOUSE OVER THREE HOURS AGO.

SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT WHEN THE HEART STOPS, GRAVITY IMMEDIATELY BEGINS TO PULL THE STAGNANT BLOOD DOWN, INTO THE LOWER PARTS OF THE BODY ...

...IN THIS INSTANCE YOUR FACE, DUE TO YOUR SLEEPING POSITION.

THEY CALL THAT REDDISH-BROWN DISCOLORATION LIVOR MORTIS.

AND THE FACT YOU CAN'T MAKE YOUR MUSCLES DO WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO?

GET IN THERE...
BLASTED
KEYS!!

THAT THEY'RE SO LOOSE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE TRYING TO OPERATE A MARIONETTE WITH CUT STRINGS?

THAT WOULD BE "PRIMARY FLACCIDITY." FREED FROM THE BURDEN OF LIFE, ALL YOUR MUSCLES HAVE GONE COMPLETELY LAX.

INCLUDING YOUR BLADDER MUSCLES ...HENCE THE LITTLE "ACCIDENT" BACK AT THE BAR.

SKREEEECH



BUT YOU DON'T KNOW
ANY OF THAT.

ALL YOU DO KNOW
IS THAT THIS IS
DEDE'S FAULT.

DEDE'S--- AND
CECILE'S.

CECILE, EVEN MORE INSECURE
THAN SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL.
WHO SAID SHE WAS AN OIL
EXECUTIVE'S DAUGHTER
TAKING A YEAR OFF FROM
BUSINESS SCHOOL AT
TULANE...



...THE
PERFECT
MARK.

IN NO TIME AT ALL, YOU HAD
HER EATING OUT OF THE PALM
OF YOUR HAND.

TASTE
THAT DELICATE
SWEETNESS?

THAT
COMES FROM
WHAT WE CALL
"NOBLE ROT"
IN THE GRAPE...




SHE WANTED YOU TO MEET HER
PARENTS--- A GOOD SIGN.
YOU'D BEEN MARRIED SIX TIMES
BEFORE... ALL UNDER VARIOUS
PSEUDONYMS...

...AND ALWAYS RESULTING IN
DIVORCE SETTLEMENTS HIGHLY
PLEASING TO YOUR WALLET.



BUT THERE'S
NOTHING A
PARASITE
HATES MORE
THAN A HOST
NEEDIER THAN
IT.

Turns out Cecile was lying
about her background—
she was really white trash
from some Cajun dump in the
middle of the bayou...



...COMPLETE WITH A CREEPY
OLD GREAT-UNT, TANTE
DEDE, A TRAITLISE, OR
WITCH-WOMAN, WHO
CLAIMED SHE HAD THE
POWER TO "STRIKE YOU
DOWN" IF YOU "DISRE-
SPECTED" CECILE.

CECILE DIDN'T
THINK YOU'D WANT
HER IF YOU KNEW
THE TRUTH!



SHE GOT
THAT RIGHT!

VRROARR

REALLY, YOU WERE DOING
HER A FAVOR— SHE'D
FIND OUT YOU HAD NO
INTEREST IN BEING
SOMEBODY ELSE'S MEAL
TICKET EVENTUALLY!



BUT APPARENTLY
OL' TANTE DEDE
DIDN'T SEE IT
THAT WAY...



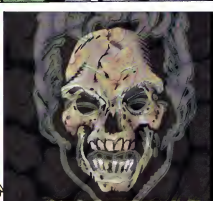




AND IT LASTS
A WHILE

YOU CAN'T SEE WITH YOUR
EYELIDS CLAMPED SHUT,
BUT YOU CAN FEEL THE
RISING SUN BAKING WHAT'S
LEFT OF YOU.

WAKING THE MICROBES--- *COLSTRIDIUM*
PUTRIFILUM--- THAT HAD BEEN LIVING IN YOUR
FLESH SINCE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN...



...PATIENTLY WAITING FOR YOU
TO DIE SO THEY CAN BEGIN
DEVOURING YOU IN THE
PROCESS OF DECOMPOSITION.



THE BACTERIA AT WORK
GIVE OFF QUITE AN ODOR.



A FRAGRANCE
REPULSIVE TO
MOST...



...BUT IRRESISTIBLE
TO OTHERS.



IT GOES ON FOREVER,
OR SO IT SEEMS.

AND THOUGH YOU
CANNOT MOVE A
MUSCLE, YOU ARE
TOTALLY, HORRIBLY
AWAKE THROUGH
ALL OF IT.

WHEN NOT
SCREAMING IN
SILENT
HORROR...



...YOU FANTASIZE
ABOUT EVERY
CONCEIVABLE WAY
TO KILL A CROW.



YOU DON'T EVEN
EXPRESS ANY GRAT-
ITUDE WHEN THEY
RESTORE YOUR
SIGHT TO YOU.

OF COURSE, BY THE
TIME THAT HAPPENS...

...YOU ARE
QUITE MAD.

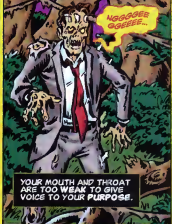


AFTER A DAY OR SO, RIGOR
MORTIS FADES INTO **SECONDARY
FLACCIDITY**.



**SECONDARY FLACCIDITY IS
NOT PRIMARY FLACCIDITY.**

YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE NOT
MUCH MORE THAN A **SHAMBLE**.



**NGGGGEE
GGEEEEE...**

YOUR MOUTH AND THROAT
ARE TOO WEAK TO GIVE
VOICE TO YOUR **PURPOSE**.

BUT IT IS THAT PURPOSE--- IN THE FORM OF
A NAME, BRANDED ONTO WHAT REMAINS OF
YOUR **ROTTING BRAIN**...



...THAT CONTINUES TO
SPUR YOU FORWARD,
LIKE AN **URGENT RIDER**.



YOU WILL LET NO THING
SLOW YOUR PROGRESS.

YOU KNOW NEITHER
FATIGUE... NOR FEAR.



WOULD-BE
PREDATORS...



...AVOID YOU.

THEY KNOW
SPOILED MEAT
WHEN THEY
SMELL IT.



INSTINCT TELLS YOU WHEN YOU'VE
REACHED YOUR DESTINATION...



...WHICH IS...

...WHERE,
AGAIN?



SO HARD TO
REMEMBER.

THE NOXIOUS FLATULENCE
OF PUTRESCENT GASES
ESCAPING YOUR BLOATED
CORPSE DOES NOT HELP
YOUR CONCENTRATION.






YES, YES, HERE YOU ARE, WHERE YOU WANTED TO BE. THAT MUCH YOU CAN RECALL.

HERE, WHERE YOU WANTED TO... TO DO WHAT?




BLAST! THAT'S THE PART YOU'RE MISSING.

COULD IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT OLD WOMAN?



NO... PROBABLY NOT. YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE IN YOUR 'LIFE.'

INGG
EEEG
GEE...



BEST TO RETURN TO THE SWAMP. THE PRIMORDIAL, ETERNAL STILLNESS OF THE SWAMP.

PERHAPS THERE YOU WILL FIND PEACE.







YOU SWORE YOU'D NEVER BE ANYBODY ELSE'S MEAL TICKET, LOUIS! NOT ANY WOMAN'S— CERTAINLY NOT ANY CHILD'S—

BUT NOW YOU CAN KISS YOUR PRECIOUS FREEDOM GOODBYE! MIGHT AS WELL SHED A TEAR FOR IT AS IT GOES.



AFTER ALL, YOU ALWAYS CRY AT WEDDINGS.

UNFORTUNATELY, BY THIS TIME, CALLIPHORA VICINA, THE BLOW FLY, HAS LAID EGGS IN YOUR TEAR DUCTS.

SO ONLY MAGGOTS COME OUT...



NOW, THAT WAS A
REAL BADTIME STORY!

MY NEXT
ONSLAUGHT OF ONLINE
TERROR IS THE TAIL, I MEAN TALE
OF TWO HIRSLUTE HOUSEPETS, ER, I
MEAN HOUSEMATES...



GRR!

GRR!

AND I'M NOT
TALKING ABOUT THE
VAULT-KEEPER AND THE
OLD WITCH IN THEIR
CHEAP RUBBER
MASKS!



GRR?

GIVE IT UP!

IT'S A STORY THAT STARTS ON THE CITY'S MEAN STREETS! I CALL IT...

**MOONLIGHT
SONATA**



IT WAS A PARE HOME RUN FOR ROSCOE LITTLE. HURLED BY PROFESSION. COWARD BY NATURE.

ROSCOE'S "CUSTOMER" IS ONE DRAGO SAVAGE. AN UPTOWN MAN TAKING A SHORT CUT ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE BUTCHER SHOP.

PERFECT
SHOT.
WHICH MEANS
HE WON'T
BE NEEDING
HIS GOODS
ANYMORE.



A HOUSE
KEY AND A
WALLET FULL
OF MONEY
JACKPOT.





ADDRESS
ON THE LICENSE
PRETTY UPTOWN
DISS. MIGHT BE
WORTH CHECKING
OUT.



LOOKS
LIKE A
PACKAGE
OF MEAT...
MIGHT AS
WELL GO
FOR THE
WHOLE
HOB.



LOOKS DARK...
MAYBE EMPTY.
THAT WOULD BE
GOOD.

ONE
WAY TO
FIND
OUT.

A man wearing a dark cap and a jacket is looking into a room. In the background, there is a staircase and a small table with a lamp. A framed picture of a woman hangs on the wall.

JACKPOT

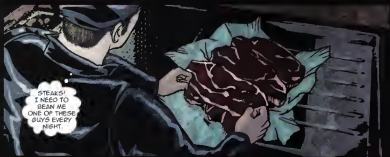
TIME
TO CHECK
OUT WHAT'S
GOING TO
THE PAWN
SHOP.

A man in a cap is looking at a bed in a room. The room appears to be a simple, possibly rented, space with a bed and some furniture.

NICE...
AND IF NO
ONE'S HERE,
THIS BED WILL
BEAT SLEEPING
IN AN ALLEY.

A man in a cap is looking at a rack of men's clothes. He is holding a small object, possibly a key or a piece of jewelry, in his hand.

ALL
MEN'S CLOTHES
MUST LIVE ALONE
THIS GETS BETTER
AND BETTER.





WHAT THE HELL?

HHROOOOOO!

GUY MUST HAVE A DOG

HHROOOOOO!

BUT I NEVER HEARD A DOG LIKE THAT

HHROOOOOOOO!



NOPE. NOT DOGS



JUST LIKE
IN THE HORROR
MOVIES, WERE-
WOLVES.



SO
THAT'S WHO
THE STEAKS
WERE FOR.



LATER...

THIS
IS THE LIFE..
EVEN GOT MY
OWN EXOTIC
PETS

THIS IS
8000 ENOUGH
FOR THE LIKES
OF YOU TWO

DUDE
BEATS THE
CHEAP
STUFF


AN EXPENSIVE
WINE HANGOVER
IS A LOT LIKE A
CHEAP WINE
HANGOVER

MORNING
ALREADY.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO MY WERE-
WOLVES?

THAT
WOULD
BE US.

WHERE'S
DRAGO?



YOU SURE LOOK BETTER
WITHOUT ALL THAT HAIR AND
TEETH, HONEY. AS FOR DRAGO,
HE AIN'T COMING BACK...



OH, NO.
HE WAS OUR
BROTHER, OUR
PROTECTOR.
WHAT WILL
WE DO?



I'M IN
CHARGE NOW
SO, YOU'LL
DO WHAT I
TELL YOU.



HAVE
PITY ON
US

I'LL HAVE
WHATEVER I
WANT, AND THE
FIRST THING I WANT
IS TO KNOW HOW
YOU COME TO
BE THE FREAKS
YOU ARE.



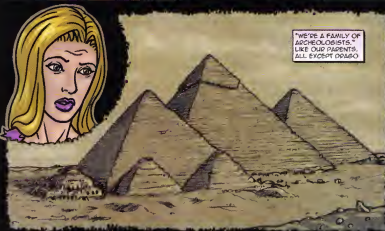
WILL YOU
HELP US
IF WE TELL
YOU?



I MIGHT,
YOU NEVER
KNOW. TELL
ME.



"WE'RE A FAMILY OF
ARCHEOLOGISTS,"
LIKE OUR PARENTS.
ALL EXCEPT ODMSO



"WE DISCOVERED AN UNDISTURBED
TOMB IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS.
A LOCAL TOLD US OF THE PLACE.
HE WOULD ONLY TAKE US THERE
WHEN IT WAS NEAR NIGHT."



IT'S THE
SYMBOL OF
ANUSIS.

MOST
DEFINITELY.



IT'S A CURSE
OF SOME KIND
SAYS ANUBIS WILL
SEND HIS MINIONS
TO AVENGE HIM IF
THE TOMB IS
OPENED

RIDICULOUS,
OF COURSE
OPEN IT.



TO HELL WITH
ARCHAEOLOGY!
WE CAN MAKE A
FORTUNE.

"WE WERE OVERCOME WITH SPEED.



THE
MOON IS UP...
AND YOUR
PATH IS
BLOCKED

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

I AM A
GUARDIAN
OF THIS TOWN.
NOW YOU WILL
BE PUNISHED
FOR YOUR
INVASION.



EEEEEE!



"I WAS BITTEN."



"WE WERE BOTH BITTEN."



"BUT BY ACCIDENT WE FOUND
THE BEAST'S ACHILLE'S HEEL.



"IT WAS SILVER.



"WHEN IT WAS DEAD, WE GAVE
UP ON THE PLACE AND FLEW.



"WHEN WE RETURNED HOME
THE CURSE KICKED IN, AND WE
BECAME AS YOU SAW US."





HOW COME YOU'RE IN THESE CAGES?

TO KEEP US SAFE, AND TO KEEP OTHERS SAFE. JUST BEFORE DAYLIGHT, DRAGO SETS US FREE.

BUT AT NIGHT WE STAY IN THESE CAGES.



WELL, HE AIN'T HERE FOR THAT NOW, IS HE? I LIKE YOU RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.

AND IF YOU'RE A GOOD LITTLE BOY AND GIRL, I MIGHT JUST KEEP FEEDING YOU. SCRAPS, OF COURSE. NIGHT GET YOU MATCHING FLEA COLLARS.

HA! HA! HA!

BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I'M GOING TO LOOT THIS JOINT SIX WAYS FROM SUNDAY.



ROSCOE MADE A NUMBER OF
TRIPS TO THE PAWNSHOP



LAYAWAY
Up to 6 Months



HE WENT METHODICALLY
FROM ROOM TO ROOM



WHAT'S
HE GO WITH
ALL THESE
BOOKS?







HEY,
THESE
LOOK
LIKE



THEY ARE...
THEY'RE SILVER...
WELL, OLD DRAGO
WASN'T ENTIRELY
TRUSTING OF
GUESSA AND
SIS.



THIS
PLACE
IS ABOUT
WORKED
OUT





NOW,
TO SEE IF
THESE BULLETS
WORK... DON'T
WANT TO
LEAVE ANY
WITNESSES.

EVEN IF
THEY ARE
PART-TIME
WEE-
WOLVES.



RRRR RRRGH!

AND
BEFORE
I LEAVE I'M
GONNA GET
ME ANOTHER
BOTTLE OF
THAT WINE!

LADY
AND GENT,
TIME TO SAY
GOODNIGHT.







YOU...
HOW...? YOU'RE
DEAD.

THE
CLUB YOU
HIT ME WITH...
MUST HAVE
BEEN HAWK-
THORNE



AND,
YES, I'M
DEAD. I'VE
BEEN DEAD
A LONG
TIME.



SILVER
BULLETS ARE
FOR WERE-
WOLVES



THEY'RE
NOT
FOR...

WEEEE!



VAMPIRES!

THE END



ANIMAL LOVERS,
PLEASE NOTE THAT NO WERE-
WOLVES WERE ACTUALLY
MISTREATED IN THE MAKING
OF THAT VIDEO!

KILLED: YES!
MISTREATED: NO!



WHA--??

ENOUGH OF THAT,
SCARENTINO!

GRAB!

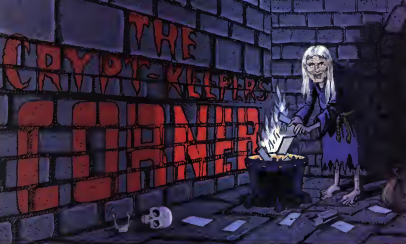
IT'S TIME TO
SAY GOOD NIGHT,
KID-DIES!



BUT BEFORE
WE PUT THIS ISSUE TO
OETHBED, I MUST WARN OUR
ROTTEN READERS NOT TO MISS
OUR NEXT ISSUE! IT FEATURES
TWO TERROR-TALES YOU WON'T
SOON FORGET!

GOOD NIGHT, KIDDESI! AND
PLEASANT SCREAMS!

HAHAHA!



Greetings, CRETINS! It's me, your digital camera-toting Crypt-Keeper, with another SCARY SELECTION of SPAM from our beloved fans. Looks like our "NEW DIRECTION" toward DARKER, more INTENSE TALES OF TERROR is going over better than expected! Just check out the voting for last issue's favorite TERROR TALE. "A Ripping Good Time" by writers Joe R. Lansdale and John L. Lansdale and illustrated by James Romberger, SOUNDLY SLAUGHTERED "Jumping the Shark" by writer Arie Kaplan and artist Mr. Exes. Just goes to show that even today's frightening TV producers can't compete with ol' Jack the Ripper when it comes to the real FEAR FACTOR!

We're also thrilled to announce that yet a FOURTH FEAR-FILLED collection of TALES FROM THE CRYPT stories from Papercutz will soon be HAUNTING your favorite bookseller's shelves. Available in both paperback and COLLECTOR'S ITEM hardcovers, "TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4: CRYPT-KEEPING IT REAL!" features my never-before-seen YOU TOOMB contributions, "You Toomb" by Stefan Petrucha and Tim Smith 3, "The Creditor" by Alex Simmons and Mori Todd, "Dumped" by Scott Lobdell and Facundo Velilla & Alejandro Cabral, and "Roses Bedight" by Stefan Petrucha and Jeziel Sanchez Martinez. The third VENOMOUS VOLUME, entitled "TALES FROM THE CRYPT #3: ZOMBIELICIOUS!" features "Graveyard Shifts at the Twilight Gardens" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3, an EXCLUSIVE all-new tale, created just for the graphic novel series!

I could also mention that the first two collected CRYPT volumes ("Ghouls Gone Wild!" and "Can You Fear Me Now?") are both still on sale at better BOOKSTORES everywhere, but then I wouldn't have any room left for your FAWNING FAN-MAIL...

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

Cheers to you for bringing TETC horror back to my local comic shop. I've been an EC fan forever and have been reading your new publication since issue #1. Now I gotta say at first I was disappointed with most of the art, yet the stories are actually quite good and I find myself flinching for the next issues. I just finished reading issues #4 and #5. On #4 I really enjoyed "Extra Life," extreme gamer madness is always a plus. It has a great modernized sense of horror writing and I loved the art. Then "Crystal Clear" another great story for the modern horror reader yet the art is just lagging. On issue #5 "Queen of the Vampires" is a good read and the artwork is getting better. "Kid-tested, Mother Approved" shot it down for me. I enjoyed the story but what a lousy cover, it's as if my 5 year-old son drew the art. So here're my questions. Why only two stories per issue? And can't you get a better artist to represent the Crypt Keeper, the Old Witch and the Vault Keeper? I'm sure most will agree they just look silly. Two last questions - I'm on the brink of finishing my own horror comic publication. Any advice on how to make it happen? Or how could I get one of my twisted stories and art in your mag?

A true fan,
Doug Randazzo
Long Island, New York

Bribery usually works, Doug!

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

I just got a new Tales from the Crypt pinball machine! Attached is a picture of me with my pinball machine. I really like reading your comic because it has lots of evil stories and it's fun to read.

Keep up your evil work!
Gabe (age 9)
US Air Base Ramstein
(Germany)
PSC 2 Box 11587
APO AE 09012



Now Gabe knows how to get on our good side!

Subject: Crypt #6

Recently, I wrote to you guys and expressed my general feelings toward the first five issues of the new TALES FROM THE CRYPT. Generally, I was happy with the series but, being a huge fan of the original comics, I was concerned that the new series may not be grisly enough. Judging by the letter column, I am not the only person that felt this way.

After reading the sixth issue, I would like to commend you on actually listening to the input of your readers. This was definitely the best issue produced thus far and this new (old) direction that you are taking is gradually becoming evident.

That being said, I still have a couple of complaints. I was really enjoying "Jumping the Shark," but the ending is a huge letdown. Seriously, "I'm a return?" That's it? The entire story was leading up to a pun? No gore, no ironic death, nothing? Okay...at least the art is quite good. Mr. Essex is quickly becoming my favorite modern CRYPT artist thus far, as his work on "Queen of the Vampires" is also solid. In a way, "A Ripping Good Time" is the opposite of "Jumping the Shark." I liked the story, but I was not crazy about the art. While the story is your most gruesome thus far (even though I am pretty sure that decapitations typically involve blood), I often had to reread pages in order to understand what the hell was going on. The murky art style made it difficult to understand the progression of the plot and a more traditional style would have greatly benefited the story. However, if you are conducting a poll about this issue, my vote goes to "A Ripping Good Time."

Looking ahead, I eagerly await issue #7, as the cover image leads me to believe that this will be the first issue with actual gore in it. I also noticed that #7 is shipping in July and #8 is shipping in August. Does this mean that CRYPT is going monthly?

Michael
Saddle Brook, NJ

It's not exactly BLOOD, but we are hoping to KETCHUP on our schedule!

Subject: TFTC #6

Congratulations on the sixth issue. It is nice to see that you have made it this far. Everyone in the letters section seems to talk about the art in the comics and that's one area I can applaud you guys for, the art. While it isn't like the older EC comics, it does have its own style and a look all its own. The stories seem to carry that feel that the old issues have, and that's a good thing.

I do, however, have to give some heavy credit for the cover of issue #6. This cover alone looks like a classic TALES FROM THE CRYPT cover and it really gave me that nostalgic feel just looking at it, serious Kudos there.

I have been reading TALES FROM THE CRYPT since I was a kid, obviously from the reprints, and I must say that it is great to see some new material as I am sure that Gaines would be happy also to see his ideas making a return. It's time for VAULT and HAUNT to make their triumphant returns now, just for the record in my opinion.

I'm gonna vote too. I loved "Jumping The Shark" as it was a well-written story with some exceptional looks at the morality of modern television. I did, however, really enjoy the artwork for "A Ripping Good Time." I just wish the story had been a bit more fleshed out. Either way, keep up the good work and I hope to keep seeing you hacking things out to my newsstand.

The Crypt Faithful,
Jason Greene

Maybe we should bring Jack the Ripper back as a TV producer...?

Keep those emails and letters coming - we get so lonely here in the Crypt of Terror! Send letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your comments to the Old Editor at:

salicrup@papercutz.com

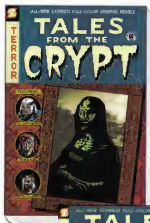
And be sure to visit papercutz.com for the latest TALES FROM THE CRYPT news!

SUBSCRYPTIONS!

For a one year (six-issue) subscription to TALES FROM THE CRYPT, just send a check or money order, in US funds only, for \$24.00. Send to: subSCRYPTions, PAPER CUTZ, 40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308, New York, NY 10005. Make checks payable to NBM. Or call 1-800-886-1223. MC, VISA, and AMEX accepted.

E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!
(BUT WE'RE COMING OUT WITH
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